

The Elijah Syndrome

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Nathaniel Bronner:

Welcome to Brothers of the Word because brother, you need the word. Amen, Amen. And we're going to jump right into the word of God today in I Kings, chapter 19 beginning at the first verse, "And Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and withal how he had slain all the prophets with the sword. Then Jezebel sent a messenger unto Elijah, saying, 'So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I make not thy life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time.'" In order words, Jezebel said, "I'm going to kill you by the all the gods if you're not dead tomorrow." And when he saw that, he arose, and went for his life, and came to Beersheba, which belongeth to Judah, and left his servant there. But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a Juniper tree, and he requested for himself that he might die; and said, 'It is enough; now, Oh Lord, take away my life, for I am not better than my fathers."

And God spoke into my spirit and just told me to talk to you today about the Elijah Syndrome. The Elijah Syndrome. Now, Elijah is perhaps the most renowned prophet of the Old Testament. Arguably the greatest of the Old Testament prophets, and yet, with all that Elijah had done, here sat Elijah under the Juniper tree and said, "Lord, I've had enough. Take my life for I am no better than my fathers." And God wanted me to just kind of open up some of the things that -- what could get the great and almighty Elijah who had gone all man of miracles. This is the same man who told the kings that the heavens would be shut up and it shall not rain, and the heavens were shut. This is that man. This is the same man who said bring all of the prophets of Baal and have them to make an altar, and split up all and put it on the altar, and have them to call down fire from heaven if Baal begotten.

He said, "I'm going to make an altar here." And then he made the altar and put the boulder and split in half and put three [00:03:04] of water on the altar. And the prophets of Baal prayed and prayed, and danced and cut themselves, and no fire from heaven came, and then Elijah called on the God of heaven and fire immediately came down and consumed the altar. And then Elijah had

all 450 prophets of Baal put to death. This is that same man.

This is the man that we talked about on the Valley of the Dry Bones who not only resurrected but resurrected dry bones. This is the same man. And still, that's the greatest resurrection miracle -- it was dry bones! Not just dead flesh, dry bones. This is the same man. Yet, what would cause Elijah to sit under the Juniper tree and said, "Lord, take my life. I'm ready to die. I've had enough." Do you think that he was just so afraid of Jezebel when Elijah had seen the delivers with all of the prophets of Baal when he had just experienced the fire come down from heaven? Don't you know that Elijah had to know that surely, a God that could do all of this, could protect him from just one woman? What was it? Was it the Elijah Syndrome? What was it the caused Elijah to sit under that tree? And that kind of despair and statement and said, "God, take my life. I've had enough." The Elijah Syndrome. He said it is enough. The question, is enough what? Turn to the person sitting next to you and say, "Enough what?" He said it's enough. I want to open and show you some of the things that Elijah was dealing with between the lines.

00:05:03

Elijah said, "For I am no better than my fathers." So, the first thing that I did is I got to research to figure out the Elijah Syndrome, I said, "Well, let me find out who Elijah's father was." Now, the only problem with that is you can't find it because it's not in the Bible. The only thing in the Bible about who Elijah's father was is again in I Kings, 17th chapter, 1 verse and it says, "And Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the inhabitants of Gilead, said unto Ahab." That's all it was said, but all of them [00:05:49] didn't say a word about his father. So, I couldn't first of all find nothing of the prophet Samuel, you know who his daddy was, you know his mommy. Elijah -- there was no mention of his genealogy. You don't know who his daddy was, but yet he said, "I'm no better than my fathers," which meant that there was something in his background.

When he would make the statement that “I am no better than my father,” there was something in his background, something that was pulling at Elijah, somewhat that he sat there under that Juniper tree, something that maybe didn’t quite said right about his background. Do any of you all have something in your background, something that daddy, something that mommy did, something in your family tree does not quite [00:06:39]? It was the beginning of -- Elijah said, “I’m no better than my fathers.” “And Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the inhabitants of Gilead.”

The second problem was not only could I not find out who Elijah’s folks were, I couldn’t find out what a Tishbite was. There is absolutely no record, biblically nor historically of what a Tishbite is. So, as I researched and as I checked all of the historical writings to see what was a Tishbite, there were -- there was nothing. The only that was ever for speculation is that first of all, a Tishbite perhaps was from an unnamed village, or perhaps it was a permutation of the word that meant stranger or alien, but it was what Elijah was identified as and the word of the Lord came to Elijah the Tishbite. And the word of the Lord came to Elijah Tishbite, but the angel of the Lord said to Elijah the Tishbite, he was identified as Elijah the Tishbite and there was no tish.

So, Elijah, who said, “I am no better than my fathers.” You couldn’t find his daddy. Of any of you here that are listening to me right now, you can’t find your daddy. And he came from a place that there was no record of. And it did not seem to be a place of honor where it was some glorious magnificent city, it was a little dot on the map. You know one of those places where you drive through, and if you don’t put on the brakes fast enough, you in and out of the town? That appears to me where Elijah was from and that’s what he was identified as. Then, he was from Gilead and the word “Gilead” means raw or rugged. He was from a rough place.

Any of you all in here from a rough place? See, as you went in, as you start looking at Elijah’s background, you then begin to understand why would he say, “for I am no better than my fathers” and sometimes, people’s

background would come out and you have to understand the Elijah Syndrome. No, God had worked great miracles through this man. He was still flesh and his background still come to him, and you have to understand the background to understand the foreground. "For I am no better than my fathers." Coming from a town that had no name and an area that meant a rough place. And then in II Kings beginning at the first verse, "And he said unto them, what manna of man was he which came up to meet you and told you these words. As Elijah had given a man a prophecy and he had goals of a king."

00:10:02

And they answered him. He was a hairy man and [00:10:08] about his loneliness and he said it is Elijah the Tishbite. Now let me read that out of The New Living translation. "Who was this man the king demanded? What did he look like? They replied; "He was a hairy man, and he wore a leather belt around his waist. It was Elijah from Tishbite!" The king exclaimed. Now, this is the point. When they asked what did he looked like. The answer was; he was a hairy man. Now, the problem with that and I don't mean to be disrespectful, but ladies, if someone was trying to introduce you to someone, your first question would be "what does he look like?" And if the answer be "he is a hairy man." Now, it doesn't necessary to mean that his just not -- at the end of the [00:11:14] while he's not, you know, just, it doesn't mean that, but more than likely.

If the description when they ask "what does he look like?" and said, "He is a hairy man." Chances are that Elijah one of the best-looking man in the world! Not with that description. And it go through life with that description. I see, just like David son, Absalom, who had a long [00:11:49] it's different with all he has long beautiful hair? Does not what he said, he said he is a hairy man. Now if the only description that they could come up with, he is a hairy man! That's just didn't sound all a little appealing. Have any of you looked in the mirror? Ladies and several -- why, why didn't God make me look like Halle Berry or why didn't God make me look like Vanessa Williams. Why did have God have to give me this kind of hair, this

kind of nose. And -- why didn't you give me this [00:12:25]. You know, one thing I've enough. Have you ever! Me, and the other looked in the mirror and you said, why? Do I have to work so hard to get put also my stuff kind of look decent? Why could God just have made me just naturally. You know, because some folk get naturally.

You know what I'm saying. They [00:12:45]. You don't know what I'm saying? I'm getting rid of some folk yesterday don't have to work as hard. Some folk have to get up early in the morning. I mean early in the morning. Standing in front of mirror with all kind of stuff out on counter. Paying this and [00:13:05]. Some folk have to up early in the morning, then they have to go to the wardrobe and they have to make sure that they have the right kind of clothes because stripes make you look one way, plaid make you look one way, and certain call of accent this and accent that. Some folk have to get up early in the morning trying to look decent. And still when they do the best that they can do. When I have done all that men can do. When they have bought everything, they can be bought and strapped on everything that can be strapped on it, tightening and tied down, everything that can be tightening and tied. When [00:13:47] all to that. Still, they're not quite a head turner.

He was a hairy man. So, here Elijah sat on the Juniper tree saying, "I'm no better than my fathers." From a city that had no name and people couldn't find. As a hairy man that was perhaps not the best looking in the world. And even with all of that, and all of the miracles that he performed and all top all that he didn't have any money. In top of all of that. Well, what do you mean pastor? He didn't have any money? When he first God send him to the brook and he was fed by ravens. You know, that's the miracle. But most prophets and pastors don't want to be sitting by the brook feed by ravens. We just came off of a cruise with a lot of pastors. None of them want to be fed by ravens. We didn't want to -- we ate [00:14:48] Elijah had by two or three courses every day. I have four or five. We ate, we ate and we just couldn't eat in the morning. None of us wanted to be fed by ravens.

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Then he went to the widow's house and they're stayed in her room and there with that little bit of meal and little bit of [00:15:07]. That's what Elijah had. He didn't have any money. So with all of this stuff and see people, we sometime see the big grandiose things, but behind every grandiose is a curve in a personal stuff. And if you look at some of the personal stuff, he did all of these great miracles whatever some personal issues and all us have them. Every great man or woman of God, behind the curve, you all see behind the curve. See, see that behind the curve, there's some personal stuff and it's a personal stuff. If you deal within the midnight hour, it's a personal stuff that you deal with when you are alone with God. You don't deal with the miracles. You deal with a personal stuff. And Elijah had some personal things that had just [00:15:55].

You try to stand by the brook being feed by ravens. No one has gone. You -- you able to stay in your apartment. You're making month by month. You know is God [00:16:06] food. And sometimes you said to yourself, "Lord, I'm your child, why can't you just [00:16:13] for me to where I have a seven-course meal instead of this food brought by ravens." All of us have gone through that. "Lord, why couldn't you just have made me good looking instead of a hairy?" I don't want to be call a hairy. I don't care how spirit you are. Everyone has a degree vanity. Everyone wants to look good. I don't care how will you sing, preach or [00:16:40]. Everyone wants to look good. No one wants to be called that hairy prophet." So, I can deal with a lot of these things of a personal nature.

And you see, even his predecessor, the one who came after him, Elijah, he got of double portion, but you remember what happened to Elijah when he was walking and the children start turning him by saying "go away you bald man." He was bald. And remember he cursed him and call down that bad [00:17:16] children. He had a double portion of it. See, when we asked for the double portion, we want a double portion of a power. We don't want a double portion of the persecution. But sometimes forgot to take you at a place to where you are close to him.

He has to stripped you of some of this stuff of the world and you after go through the Elijah syndrome where you know, there's no one else, but God. He gave you too much money, should as you. But with that widow's [00:17:48] to say, nobody but God. You have to understand nobody but God. So, sometime God have to put you in an Elijah syndrome where you know goodwill is nobody but God. And here, Elijah was dealing with all of his personal stuff and someone you right now are going through an Elijah syndrome while you wish you just didn't have to deal with his stuff, but yet God has a work. He has some miracles and he will send through you, but has to do you just like Elijah, and he will go through some things. You'll have to be brought up in the midst of some things. You'll have to have, sometimes not background, not the looks, not the money, but it is for the purpose of God and we're in the midst of all this stuff.

Sometime we [00:18:34] that's enough. I have had have enough! If you all ever had enough. I mean, you can have enough! You've gone through all in this stuff the same things at all and then he would by himself. He had no woman. All type of all of that. That is real. He made me a [00:18:54] but he's a man. That's real. That's why he sits on that Juniper tree and said, "Lord, I have had enough!" The Elijah syndrome and all of us [00:19:07] if you want the power, if you really want to do the miracles that God has for you, you need to be able to prepare to walk the path of Elijah. That's why when John came, Jesus said, "This is Elijah, come again if you can receive it because John had to be in the wilderness in [00:19:26] and honey." It was the Elijah syndrome, and we will have to go through some things for God to send some things through us. And God is sending this word to tell you just as he had to deal with his powerful prophet Elijah, so much to deal with you. And everything you got, God has placed it in your life and given it to you and no matter what man may say about it and sometimes you cannot see the whole picture.

God has destined this thing and he has some great works to do in your life but you have to understand the other side of the logic. How we see is the great -- is the almost side, of the personal side and that's what you want to deal with, the personal stuff, the Elijah syndrome. God is trying to tell you people just as prophet Elijah, so shall you'll be but I will send this stuff from you that will shake the world. But you got to recognize me when I move in. And if I have to let you subsist on a will's might and of all and [00:20:55]. If I have to bring you food in the mouth of an unclean bird. If I have to have you subsist by the side of a book, don't worry about how abundant it is just known that I have provided for you. Don't worry about your apartment is not a multimillion-dollar mansion. I have provided for you it's in the widow's house. Don't worry about you can't ride with a big fancy car, I have provided for you and I have given good feet.

Don't worry about you don't have the slimmest and the trimmest and the most muscular body. It may be hairy but I have provided for you. I gave it to you. I know what I made for you. God is trying to tell you the Elijah syndrome, and though you may get down, if you know what God has destine and you could see the picture, you know that God is behind this. You that are watching. Some of you right now are in the midst of the Elijah syndrome and you feel that you're ready to die. God says "No! I have to take you to a point where I [00:22:09] things so that you're truly ready to live." Thank you for watching Brothers of the Word, because brother you need the word.

[Music Playing]

Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen. Amen, Amen, Amen. God wants to do something with you people, but you need to look at how he dealt with these people, how he dealt with his prophets. And how few of us want to walk in the path of Elijah. How few of us want to walk in a path of John? And surely how few of us want to walk in the path of Jesus. We've been sitting on that tree so fast. Lord take my life. I have had enough of this. So, that didn't come to my life. I came to give it to you. I came to give it to you. But in order for him to give it you it

sometimes feels that he's taking it. That's why Jesus said [00:23:35] fall to the earth and die. In many times we can't get to where God wants us to go until we go through the Elijah syndrome. He wants to raise some dead bones in your life and give you power that you never dreamt it, but he has to prepare for that, and that's not easy. I didn't even want to [00:24:05]. To get prepared for some of the stuff [00:24:11] ministry. I did more counsel this past week than I have in a long time. A lot of time I was just able to see through lies, not from prophetic stuff from experience, and I saw what God told me I got to send you through some things so you can relate to the people. If I had choices, I said "lord just send me a book." "I don't want to go through this stuff. Just send me a book." Let's see Elijah preaches by and let me just hear for one of his weekend words. I don't want to go through this stuff, but it is the only way, and then he has to send you through some stuff

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So that even when God does take you a certain level that you can handle it because if you haven't been through the fire, you're not tempered and you're not prepared -- be the worst thing in the world could have. Sometimes the worst thing in the world could happen is that spirit even for you to rise [00:25:13]. Have you ever thought how do you kill pride? That is not an easy job. Most of the time you came through with yourself. So, in order for God to save you, you'll have to come in and strips some pride from you, and I can guarantee you that's not pleasant, and when you start stripping it from you, you said "Lord, that's enough, that's enough." But that's why the [00:25:49] he will not place more on you than you can bare. And when you understand that you'll understand it is never enough.

Because if he said he want to place more on you than you can bet another devil may put some on you. If you're walking in his camp that he will bush you with [00:26:08]. But God said he won't put more on you than you can bare. So, turn to the person next to you and said "It's never enough." Because if it's God doing it, he is not going to put more on in you than you can bare. So, I don't care what kind of loads you have right now, it's still not

enough. God says my child you can carry 500 pounds, so I will put 498 on you. That 498 is heavy but is not more than you can bare. And God is trying to take us to some levels people, but you have to understand how his word and you can look to the light of his people and see some things, and see the Elijah syndrome.

We want to be like Elijah but we don't want to go through the syndrome. We want to call down fire from heaven, but you don't want to go through the fire. We want to have supernatural provision but we don't want eat from the mouths of ravens. We want to only eat at the King's table. When you understand his words, his ways, and how he has to deal with our human spirits to develop us for eternal life, is never enough, yet it is still be Elijah syndrome. So many [00:27:38] go through. Don't worry about who your daddy was if you don't even know where he is. That's why he says you must be born again [00:27:48] parents. Don't worry about that. Don't worry about if you're a Tishbite.

Came from Fitness Fritz Georgia, don't worry about it. Don't worry about it if you're a Tishbite. Elijah the Tishbite and they said in [00:28:12]. And yes, these things affected him because he was a flesh, but God knew why he was born. That's why he sent his son on the same image. That's why the [00:28:28] said could anything good come out of that? Yes, it can. It's not the place, it's the person and if your determination to follow what God is destined for you to do. You will go through some stuff and understand the King is that you will go from it. And as long you understand that not to be stuck in it you will go through it. And when we get to those points of where we are under our Juniper tree, God will always send in an angel that will restore and let us know that we are not alone and though we think we've had enough, we're just getting started, we're just getting started. Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen.