

Chapter 15: God's Messengers



Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever experienced a correction, where someone who cared for you spoke the truth in love?
 - a. What did it feel like?
 - b. How did you respond?
 - c. What is your perspective on it after time has passed?
 - d. Were they in the right for calling you out?
2. Have you experienced a drought? What are the thoughts that go through your mind when it doesn't rain?
3. What about a spiritual drought? How do you act or think when there doesn't seem to be any energy in your spiritual walk?
 - a. How did your drought end?
 - b. What was brought about the most change?
4. What kinds of false gods are worshipped in our culture?
5. Elijah brought a challenge to Ahab on behalf of God and asked the assembled people "How long will you waver between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him."
 - a. Do you see any parallels of that time to today's world? If yes, what?
 - b. What do you think the people who were assembling thought of the challenge?

- c. What would someone think if you said something similar today?
6. Elijah was setting up a challenge that only a supernatural, real God could answer.
 - a. Have you had any experiences where success or victory could only have come from God's intervention? If yes – what were they?
 - b. What obstacles did Elijah set up so only God could be seen as the one who won?
7. What was the result of the competition?
 - a. For the people – how did they respond?
 - b. For the king – How did he respond?
 - c. For the priests of Baal – what happened to them?
8. Elijah had a post victory discouragement, what was his complaint and how did God answer him?
 - a. Why do you think God revealed himself to Elijah in a whisper?
 - b. Have you ever experienced something similar?
 - c. If yes, How did God meet you in your time of trial?
9. What ways does God speak to people today?
 - a. What do we do to prepare to listen?
 - b. What do we do when we do hear God's word for us?
10. Elijah was told to anoint his successor – Elisha.
 - a. What do you think Elisha's thoughts were
 - i. when he was called?
 - ii. And ultimately when he took over Elijah's role?
11. Elisha helped his king by passing along strategically important information. Which caused those around Elisha to experience a crisis of faith and trust. What did Elisha say to calm those around him?
 - a. Have you had the experience where your eyes were opened to the power of God and others were not?
 - i. What did you do to encourage them to believe?
 - ii. What was the result of your faith and faithfulness?
 - b. What was the result of God's actions through Elisha in this situation?
12. It's interesting that Jezebel lasted much longer after Elijah's time, years even.
 - a. Why do you suppose God allowed her to have continued influence?
 - b. Have you seen that even when God has great victories, there isn't an immediate change in the status quo?
 - i. To what do you attribute this?

- ii. Why do you suppose people hold onto something false rather than grasp for what is real?
13. The other prophets, Amos & Hosea spoke messages to Israel's unfaithfulness – "they do not know how to do right" and "there is no faithfulness, no love"
- a. Why is it sad to have this be the description of a nation that had once said "we will follow the Lord" and who knew they had been chosen by God?
 - b. What was God going to bring about to restore the people to His plan?
14. Have you ever experienced discipline, if so, for what?
- a. What do you appreciate about it (after the fact)?
 - b. What did that discipline do for you the next time you encountered similar situations?
15. God calls Israel's idolatry "unfaithfulness" what other situations do peoples use that term?
- a. Why is this the term that is applied to worship?
 - b. How does God plan to redeem and restore his people to faithfulness?
 - c. What does faithfulness look like:
 - i. In worship of God?
 - ii. In relationships?