

# What Are You Doing Here?

1 Kings 19:9

## Introduction

I would like to ask you to ponder a few questions this morning. Please think sincerely about these questions and answer them privately in your mind and heart.

Do you really believe with all of your heart that the Bible is the Word of God?

Do you truly believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and the only way to salvation?

Do you fully believe that there is a heaven where believers will be united with God after death?

**Video** - Peoples response to questions about the gospel.

## Scripture 1 Kings 19:9

*“There he went into a cave and spent the night. And the Word of the Lord came to him; “What are you doing here, Elijah?”” 1 Kings 19:9 NIV*

## Prayer

## Content

If you answered ‘Yes’ to all of the questions previously asked then I have one final question that is the title of today’s sermon. If you do believe in the Bible as the Word of God, if you trust Jesus as the only way of salvation and you truly believe in heaven and hell, then the question for all of us is the same question that God asked Elijah.

“What are you doing here?”

People attend to church for all sorts of reasons. Some people go to church for fellowship. Others attend for the teaching of God’s Word. Others go to serve. And some go for social reasons.

While all of these may be reasonable reasons to attend church, we must each realize one very important point. God has called us to share our faith. God calls every one of you to a purpose and that purpose is to share your faith in the Lord as the one and only God – Jehovah.

The video you just saw reflects the cold hard truth. **We have not done a very good job.**

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In recent generations, we have become negligent in sharing our faith. I don’t think anyone would argue that we live in a society that is rejecting God. I want you to understand as the video reflects, society isn’t just rejecting God, **our culture is ignorant of God.**

We have failed. Our churches have failed.

Beth Moore preaching - how many signed up?

Wednesday night Bible study - how many come?

How many have invited a friend? How many people have you shared your faith with?

What about the first three questions? If you really believe those things then how can you not reach out to others with the truth?

I know, sharing our faith is scary. We all fear rejection. We all fear being ridiculed. We all get discouraged.

God has called us to do a job; everyone of us!

Today, God says to us, “What are you doing here?”

Are you where God wants you to be and are you doing what He wants you doing?

Like Elijah, we lose sight and get off track. Let’s look at how Elijah’s lost his way.

## 1. *Elijah Was Discouraged*

*“<sup>4</sup>He replied, I have been very zealous for the Lord God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, broken down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too.” 19:14*

Elijah became very discouraged. He reached the point that he was making his circumstances worse than they were.

He felt that he had done so much and yet **everyone** was rejecting God. But not everyone was rejecting God.

He felt like he was the only prophet left declaring Jehovah as the one and only God. But he was not the only one left.

He felt like everyone was out to get him but not everyone was out to get him.

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Like Elijah, when we get discouraged we **magnify** our circumstances.

So often we become discouraged just like Elijah. We feel all alone. We convince ourselves that we are the only one who cares anymore.

If you have ever held a position of service in the church, you know this feeling. We must not become crippled with discouragement.

Illus: "I've missed more than 9,000 shots in my professional career and I have lost over 300 games. 27 times my team trusted me to make the game winning shot -- and I missed. I have lost count of all the mistakes I've made on a basketball court."

Who made those statements? None other than the greatest basketball player who ever lived -- Michael Jordan.

We must not become discouraged. We must remain focused and realize that our emotions exaggerate our circumstances.

## 2. Elijah Was Forgetful

Elijah had forgotten what God had done for him and through him. Let's take a look at some of the remarkable things God did in Elijah's life.

a. God sent Elijah to Kerith and promised him he would miraculously find food there.

*"The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning and bread and meat in the evening and he drank from the brook."* 17:6

b. God sends Elijah to Zarephath where God has prepared a widow woman to feed him from a bottomless jar of flour and bottomless jug of oil.

*"Go at once to Zarephath of Sidon and stay there. I have commanded a widow in that place to supply you with food."* 17:9

c. God answers his prayers and restores life to the widow's dead boy.

*"The Lord heard Elijah's cry and the boy's life returned to him, and he lived."* 17:22

d. God sets the altar on fire astonishing the people and proving that He is God and that there is nothing to Baal idol worship.

*"Then the fire of the Lord fell and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and the soil, and also licked up the water in the trench."* 18:38

All of this and Elijah loses sight of God's protection.

We often **forget** what God has done for us and through us.

Oh how forgetful we become when things get difficult. We lose sight of what God has done in our lives.

Don't be forgetful. Remember what God has done in your life and in this church. We must be diligent and persistent.

## 3. Elijah Was Afraid

Finally, Elijah was just downright afraid. Jezebel was furious when Ahab told her how God had answered Elijah's prayer by igniting the altar and revealing Baal idol worship to be a bunch of bologna.

*"So Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah to say, May the gods deal with me, be it ever so severely, if by this time tomorrow I do not make your life like that of one of them. <sup>3</sup>Elijah was afraid and ran for his life."* 19:2-3

After all he had seen God do, one **woman** has Elijah so scared that he ran for his life.

This happens to God's children as well. We often become afraid to tackle the things God is calling us to do. Fear sets in and we settle for second best. Often, we settle for "the way we have always done it" just to avoid the fear of the unknown.

The idea of sharing our faith or stepping out into new areas of personal ministry is intimidating. But if God is leading us, we have nothing to fear.

We must not be afraid. We must be willing to share our faith. We must be bold in our outreach. "If God is for us, who can be against us."

Elijah's problem was that he was focusing on his problems and not his opportunities. He was focusing on his resources and not the resources of God.

We are completely ineffective when we take our eyes off of **God** and put them on our **circumstances**.

We must keep our eyes on God's calling and not our circumstances or limitations.

Illus: Many years ago a young Midwestern lawyer suffered from such deep depression that his friends thought it best to keep all knives and razors out of his reach. He questioned his life's calling and the prudence of even attempting to follow it through. During this time he wrote, "I am now the most miserable man living. Whether I shall ever be better, I cannot tell. I awfully forebode I shall not." But somehow, Abraham Lincoln found the strength to overcome his fear and the achievements of his life thoroughly vindicated his bout with fear and discouragement.

## **Conclusion**

Discouraged, Forgetful and Afraid, Elijah ran and hid himself. That is what the church has done in many ways in recent years.

We have been afraid to stand-up and tackle the really tough challenges to our faith. We have neglected to speak out about our faith and the principles expounded in God's Word.

Consequently, our society does not understand God let alone know Him in a personal way.

The devil has different plans for you. He wants you to:  
Doubt - question God's word and His goodness;  
Discouragement - make you look at your problems rather than at God;  
Diversion - make the wrong things seems attractive so that you will want them more than the right things;  
Defeat - make you feel like a failure so that you don't even try;  
Delay - make you put off doing something so that it never gets done.

God calls each of us. God calls our church to serve Him.

Verse 12 says God came to Elijah in a gentle whisper and asked, "What are you doing here?"

What are you doing here? Are you doing what God is calling you to do? Are you where God wants you to be?

Are you just hiding out, discouraged and afraid?

We must listen to the gentle whisper of God and be faithful.