

We all need encouragement. According to James 5:17, Elijah was “a man subject to like passions as we are.” Just as we face discouragement, Elijah faced a serious season of discouragement. Someone once said, “In chapter 17, we saw his humility. In chapter 18, we saw his heroism. In chapter 19, we are confronted with his humanity.” Following a great victory on Mt. Carmel, Elijah fled to Mt. Horeb where he poured out his heart to God in discouragement. On the top of the mountain, by drawing near to God, Elijah found courage and encouragement.

Key thought: You will find the courage and encouragement you need to live faithfully when you draw near to God.

EVERYONE GETS OVERWHELMED AND DISCOURAGED

- We get exhausted (v. 3-4)
- We fear (v. 3)
- We focus on self (v.10)
- We don't see God at work (vs.1-9)
- We falter in obedience to God's Word (vs. 17:2, 5, 8, 10; 18:1-2)

GOD IS FULL OF GRACE AND MERCY

Hebrews 13:5; Matthew 28:20; Ephesians 4:30

- God provided bread in the wilderness – (vs. 5-8; Matthew 11:28; John 6:35)
- God provided a voice on the mountain (vs. 9-13a)
- God provided a vision for the future (vs. 13b-21)
 - A renewed commission - You are not finished
 - A renewed vision - Your work will continue
 - A renewed passion - You are not alone

ENCOURAGEMENT COMES FROM DRAWING NEAR TO GOD

- Drawing near to God requires a change in your attitude – “are you listening”
- Drawing near to God requires a change in your attention - “are you looking”