



Wednesday Prayers 26th August 2020



**THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY TO PRAY.
PLEASE FEEL FREE TO ALLOW THIS GUIDE TO HELP YOU AS
WE PRAY TOGETHER IN OUR VARIOUS LOCATIONS.**

READ: 1 Kings 16 -19

REFLECT: Tonight in our final 'Wednesday Wandering' we are looking at Elijah - interesting to note the name Elijah means, Yahweh is my God! The king at the time was Ahab and the queen was the pagan Jezebel - they worshiped Baal amongst other gods. It was a crucial time in the history of Israel. Elijah had witnessed the nation he loved fall away from God, and it looked as if the worship of the true God might be completely eliminated in the northern kingdom.

Elijah challenged king Ahab to a contest to see who's God would show up through sending fire to burn up a sacrifice. The false prophets of Baal attempted the challenge unsuccessfully for hours. Then Elijah, and you just love his style, soaked the sacrifice in water and called down the fire of the Lord. The sacrifice was completely consumed. After this amazing victory, Elijah for some reason is fearful because of Jezebel, the pagan queen, as he receives the news that she intends to have him killed. He travels south into the wilderness. Elijah hit the wall as he felt complete discouragement.

Discouragement is a slippery slope - even a prophet, a man of faith, faced it. In response to discouragement, God sent an angel to strengthen Elijah, and God appeared to him – not in a fierce wind, not in a powerful earthquake, not in a devouring fire, but in a still, small voice. Elijah found God's direction, provision, and correction as he was renewed and refreshed in the wilderness.

- Discouragement screams that you must earn God's love.
- Discouragement whispers that you're not loved by God.
- Discouragement lies.

Remember, God doesn't promise security from life's storms, but security in life's storms. A common mistake we make is that we look for God in places where we ourselves wish to find God, so if God leads you into the wilderness be fully aware that the wilderness can be a place of blessing. May we know God's contentment rather than discouragement!

PRAYER POINTERS

Heavenly Father, in darkness and in light, in trouble or in joy help me to trust your love, to serve your purpose, and to praise your name, through Jesus Christ my Lord. Amen.

Dear God, at the start of a new school year, I pray for school principals, teachers, and the unseen team behind the scenes as they work through the practical implications of running a school at this time. I bring before you our children and young people, may they settle into the new school routine and get back into the learning cycle. I also pray for parents and caregivers as they work through any concerns they may have in these unfamiliar times. May each day be a day of hope, of expectation, of relishing each moment as a gift from you, knowing that our lives are in your hands.

Lord God, I pray for the Church Mission Society here in Ireland, especially the Staff team and the Board of Trustees as they seek to serve the Church overseas at this challenging time. I pray specifically for wisdom for Church leaders in Rwanda as they respond to COVID:19 which has created widespread hunger and suffering. Specifically, I pray for Kibungo Diocese and Bishop Emmanuel Ntazinda along with Shyogwe Diocese and Bishop Jered Kalimba.

Faithful God, I pray for Matthew & Erin Topley and Rodney & Judith Blair as they approach the ordination service on 8th September in St Mark's.

Loving God, I pray for those still burdened, those seeking healing, and those in need. I pray too for anyone suffering from addiction of any kind.

Gracious God, we are all members one of another. Help me to overcome any fears or doubts in these unfamiliar times. I commit to you our 'Autumn Programme' in St Mark's, and I pray that as we meet at different times in:church and on:line that we will be encouraged and strengthened. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

**PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY THROUGHOUT THE WEEK
AND JOIN US AGAIN IN PRAYER NEXT WEDNESDAY
WHEN A NEW PRAYER SHEET WILL BE AVAILABLE.
PLEASE KNOW OUR CONTINUED PRAYERS.
MALCOLM KINGSTON & GEOFF HAMILTON.**