

Most of us who are parents here....and have had teenage childrenwould have used...in an argument or heated discussion with them....the phrase

BUT.....It's not just about you

(Now I know I have:.....leaving Bunbury)

The reason I raise that.....

is because if I had been God.....listening to Elijah in that cave at Horeb

.when Elijah responded to the question....**what are you doing here**.....by saying

1 Kings 19:10

"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."

I would have used that same phrase:-

Come on Elijah.....it's not all about you.....you know

But God didn't

He didn't because He knew what Elijah had just been through.....**He knew** where he was at .and He cared deeply for him.....even as He cares deeply for each of us

For Elijah.....after the euphoria of defeating the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel When God had sent down fire from heaven.....and consumed the water logged offering and even...

→...was emotionally and physically exhausted

And as so often happens.....it was then the devil attacked this servant of God

....thro the threat of.....Jezebel →1 Kings 19:2

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."

And suddenly to Elijah.....all that had happened on Mount Carmel seemed lost

→Jezebel still had the power.....**No one** seemed prepared or able to stand....nothing had changed

So he flees into the desert....full of fear.....And when he eventually stops in exhaustion
He prays the prayer of defeat....found in 1 Kings 19:4...

He came to a broom tree, sat down under it and prayed that he might die. "I have had enough, LORD," he said. "Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors."

→ **Rather than have the evil queen kill him....and for all to know that.....**

His prayer was that the Lord would take him....before that could happen

And the response of the Lord....was not to chastise....but to send an angel to care for him

And I know the Lord still does that

When we reach the end.....**When** we feel alone...defeated.....and not able to go on one step more

He often sends an angel.....Perhaps an unexpected visit.....or a phone call....or a gift

Or an event into our lives that gives us the lift we need...The hope back..

So the Lord knew what Elijah had been through

→ **But also....when Elijah finally came to that cave**

And when he took the opportunity.....to open his broken heart before the Lord

To tell the Lord exactly what he felt.....To express his pain and disappointment

God's intention was never to correct him...to chastise.....or to destroy him

But to renew him.....to reassure him.....and to send him back with hope and with trust

God was ready to listen to Elijah.....even though what Elijah's said**was** really very harsh

"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."

Now I know that God doesn't take these things personally....but when Elijah speaks

What He is really saying to God is:-

Look Lord...your great plans for YOUR people....are just not working.....**I'VE** been doing my bit

.but your people.....Israelites.....they have rejected covenants.....broken down....killed your prophets

...till I'm the sole survivor....and they want me dead too.....

AND I'm sorry but I cant see You doing much about it at all

(I've known times....someone has stormed into my office.....Poured their frustration down the phone
→ This is happening.....these people don't care.....No one else helps.....I'm the only one
→ Left me feeling lower than a snakes....Convinced that the church is doomed....Ministry is over
• And somehow it's all my fault

That's what I reckon.....we see Elijah doing here.....with God

And in verse 11 the Lord says to him:-

"Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by."

And the reason God sends him out....is because God has something to show Elijah.....
...about the way God chooses to work

So He shows him the powerful destructive force of the wind.....earthquake....fire

And Elijah is thinking.....Thats exactly whats needed God.....

Get out there and zap a few of the worst Israelites.....**and a whole** heap of your worst enemies
And soon we will see your kingdom triumphant.....Your foes defeated
And your people no longer daring to reject your prophets

→ **But the Lord was not in those things**.....that is not the Lord's usual way of working

Instead His presence was inthe gentle whisper that followed.....The sound of crushed silence

This is my chosen way of working...says the Lord.....This is how I show my power
Where things change slowly...quietly....**where** nothing can stop the eventual triumph of my kingdom

So God sends Elijah back into the fray

With a new commission

A new understanding of God's hidden resources

And with the promise of a new companion

But especially with an understanding.....**That Almighty God** is constantly at work
Even though we don't see the wind....the earthquake....the fire

He is at work in the quite voice.....**The** powerful Voice.....That none can ever quieten

And the greatest example of the power of the Quite voice.....was when a baby was born in....
And when a carpenter started to preach at the age of 30

When the Son of God was crucified.....

And when three days later.....He quietly rose from the dead

Yet today the power of that act.....still changes lives.....and the power of His kingdom
Touches millions throughout this world.....

Today you may be feeling a little like Elijah.....DOWN....disillusioned.....wanting to give up
To you God speaks.....and He says.....WATCH and Wait....For the still small voice of God
Is Powerfully at work in your life....In your ministry.....In your situation too

As Psalm 46:10-11 says:-

***"Be still, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth."***

***The LORD Almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.***