

“still small voice.” How are you similar to Elijah? How are you different from Elijah? Have you had experienced moments of wonderful self-confidence to the point of believing the fate of your company, family and community rest on your shoulders? Have you experienced the depths of doubt and despair? Record your thoughts here asking for God’s presence and wisdom.

Thursday, June 26

There were four lessons offered in response to the experiences of Elijah. The first is to be aware of self-importance. While it is healthy to have self-confidence and self-awareness, it is detrimental to believe that the fate of the universe rests on your shoulders. We even have a phrase for that belief: Messiah or Savior Complex. While self-confidence is healthy, we must be realistic about our limitations.

The second lesson is look for God in the small things. While Elijah did not see God in the wind, earthquake or fire, he did hear God’s still small voice. From a passing thought to a quiet insight, God speaks to us in many different ways. How does God speak to you and what is God saying about you? Write your thoughts here.

Friday, June 27

The final two lessons from Elijah’s experience are interrelated; remember your community and focus on the mission. We are not meant to live our lives in solitude. We should remember that God calls many to purpose and meaning. As we join together with others in God’s work on earth, we should remember the original concept of this week’s message: It’s not about us. Spend some time today prayerfully considering what you believe God is doing in our world. Then contemplate your role in God’s mission. God calls us to be the body of Christ in the world. May it be so!

Message Notes June 22, 2025

It’s Not About Us

*– Guess Who It Is About!**

- I. Twenty-three years ago, Pastor Rick Warren’s book, *The _____ Driven Life*, was published and was number one on the New York Times Best Sellers List.
 - A. The first words of the book are, “It’s not about _____.”
 - B. Pastor Warren believes “The search for the _____ of life has puzzled people for thousands of years. That’s because we typically begin at the wrong starting point – _____.”
 - C. It’s not about us. I am genuinely concerned how those words are received in our present-day world of _____, divas and _____.
- II. Pastor and Author, Timothy Merrill, writes, “The one quest that is consistently more important than any other is to discover _____.”
 - A. This quest inevitably and inexorably leads to _____.
 - B. Elijah in our scripture for today, is running for his _____.
 1. He finds a solitary broom tree to sit under and throws himself a little _____.
 2. The Elijah of chapter _____ is nothing like the Elijah we read about chapter _____.
 3. Arguably the _____ prophet in ancient Israel, Elijah is a perfect example of how narcissism can mess you up.
 - C. Elijah clearly views himself as the sole _____ prophet, magnifying his role and minimizing God’s role in the universe!
- III. What’s interesting about Elijah’s slow return to clear-

*I Kings 19:1-21

headed thinking is the question God poses — _____!

“What are _____ doing here, Elijah?” (vv. 9, 13)

- A. After asking this question, God doesn’t _____ Elijah to his despair.
- B. Instead, God gives Elijah _____ instructions and reveals that he is not as _____ as he feels.
- C. So, what does God do? He _____ Elijah.
- IV. What are the _____ for us in this fascinating case of the frustrated, narcissistic prophet?
 - A. First, perhaps we should beware of _____ - _____.
 - B. Second, look for God in the _____ things.
 - C. Third, remember your _____.
 - D. Fourth, focus on the _____, not the self.
 - E. Like Elijah, we will face many who lead us to believe it all about ____; we will face unwelcome news and _____ times.
 - 1. We might begin to think that it’s all about ____.
 - 2. It isn’t. It’s all about _____. And for that we can give _____ thanks!

Daily Devotional Guide

The following is a daily devotional and study guide meant to enhance your understanding of the message and grow as a Christian.

It is offered for your personal reflection or to share with others.

Monday, June 23

The message began with some reflections about Pastor Rick Warren’s book, *The Purpose Driven Life*. The very first words of the book are, “It’s not about you.” Psychologist and Child Development Experts would remind us that as newborns, it is all about us as we are fully dependent on the care, protection and nurturing of others. Through the process of maturation, we begin

to realize that the world does not revolve around us; it is healthy to develop mutual, interdependent relationships as we begin to contribute towards those relationships and the world around us. What do you think of when you read the words, “It’s not about you?” How have you found balance between your needs and desires and the needs and desires of others? Contemplate these questions and write your reflections here.

Tuesday, June 24

We have many roles and relationships in life; and we have many descriptions and expectations that describe those roles and relationships. From job descriptions to marriage licenses and a myriad of other licenses and certifications, our lives are often defined through the expectation of others and our society at large. Do those documents and list of expectations define your life? How do your relationships define your purpose? How do you prioritize your relationships? Where does your relationships define your life’s purposes and meaning? Where does your relationship with God fit into your life’s meaning and purpose? Wow! That’s a lot to think about. Write a few of your responses here.

Wednesday, June 25

Read I Kings 19 – the entire chapter. It’s only 21 verse long. If you have some extra time today, scan the previous chapter, chapter 18 of I Kings. Elijah appears in each of these chapters as two very different people; he is the triumphant prophet of the one true God in chapter 18 defeating and killing 450 prophets of Baal and in chapter 19 he is cowering under the death threat of Queen Jezebel. In the message, it was suggested that Elijah was believing that the fate of his people and God rest solely on his shoulders. He declares, “I, even I only, am left a prophet of the Lord.” (I Kings 18:22) But God cares for and communicates with Elijah in wondrous and different than expected ways, from an angel to a