# Dealing With Discouragment

**Greg Kline** · 1 Kings 19:1–18

## INTRODUCTION

- Consider that even Elijah faced discouragement is a substantial point in and of itself.
- But while we're here and now, we have to recognize that discouragement comes most often from wickedness in an imperfect world.
- Even those whose faith is strong and built will face discouraging moments in life. The question is, how do we respond to them?

## 1 Difficulty Does Not Have to Define You

**Genesis 37:24–28**

- We have to know as Christians, as God's people, that difficulty does not have to define you.
- Difficulty does not have to define you, but if we're not careful, it will.
- But if we make our life about our difficulty rather than about our God, that will define us.
- How did God see Elijah? God saw Elijah as his prophet.
- Satan can take even the best of us and pull us down with discouragement and despair.
- We as God's children are defined by God's love, grace, and mercy. But you have to be God's child for that benefit.

## 2 In Times of Discouragement, You Are Not Alone

**1 Kings 18:1–16; Acts 2:44–47; Isaiah 41:10–13**

- In times of discouragement, it's easy to say, I am defined by my struggle, I'm forever going to be stuck this way, or to maybe say, nobody cares, or I'm all alone in this.
- And that's what Elijah was saying. I alone, Lord, am left.
- When we allow ourselves to be discouraged, we back up into a corner. And sometimes we won't want to come out.
- God's people are united in faith, united by a loving, merciful, caring God, and we show love, mercy, and care to others as well.
- Fear not, for I am with you. Be not dismayed. For I am your God. I will strengthen you. I will help you.
- If you're at life's peak right now, we have to prep ourselves knowing a valley is coming.

## 3 God Will Always Care for His People

**Philippians 4:4–9; Hebrews 11**

- And recognize and embrace the idea that God will always care for his people.
- And the peace of God which surpasses all understanding. Will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
- Our loving great God says, not only do you put your trust in me for the life after, you trust me now.

- God knows our needs. He takes care of his people.
- But then, of course, when Elijah is discouraged and he says, I alone am left, God says, No, you are not alone.

THE CHALLENGE

**Do we claim to be alone or do we claim to trust God? Do we know that God is there?**

MY NOTES