

Prayer



A SMALL VOICE

1 Kings 19:1-18

Relationship

- ★ Thank you for your concerns and prayers
- ★ Why was God in the small voice
- ★ There are many types of relationships
 - ◆ Some have an element of authority
 - ◆ Some are close and intimate

Relationship . . .

- ★ There is a tone of voice appropriate to each
- ★ What kind of relationship has a quiet whisper?
- ★ What relationship makes this appropriate?

Situation - Relationship - Tone

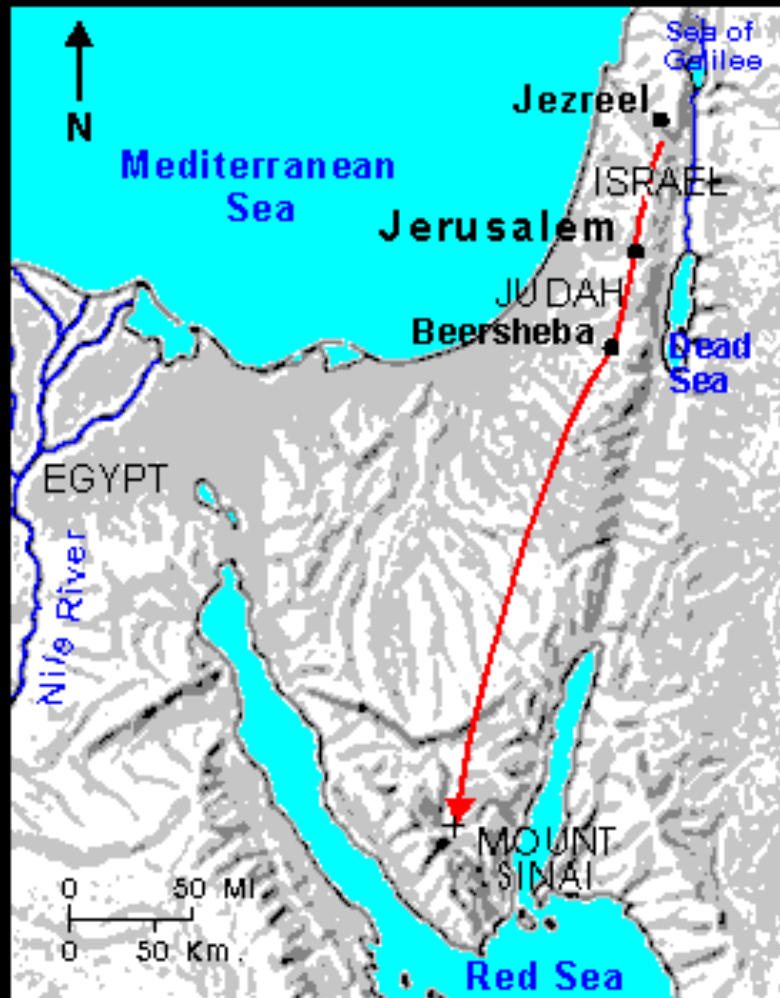
1. Situation

- ★ In the middle of a story
- ★ Elijah challenges prophets of Baal to a contest
 - ◆ They pray all day for fire to come down
 - ◆ Elijah prays – fire consumes sacrifice, altar, water
 - ◆ People turn on prophets of Baal and kill them

1. Situation . . .

- ★ When King Ahab tells his wife, Jezebel ...
 - ◆ She wants to kill Elijah
 - ◆ Idolatry has actively encouraged by Queen Jezebel
- ★ Elijah runs away discouraged & depressed
 - ◆ He flees all the way to Mt Horeb

1. Situation . . .



Elijah flees
to Mt Horeb
(Mt Sinai)

1. Situation . . .

- ✦ He has no provisions
- ✦ God reaches out to his prophet in compassion

2. Relationship

- ★ When he sat down, he prayed (v 4)
 - ◆ God simply provides food & water
- ★ He arrives at Mt Sinai and hides in a cave
 - ◆ It seems like he gave up

2. Relationship . . .

- ★ God's compassion & provision are interesting
 - ◆ God get him to articulate his state of mind
- ★ There are displays of power in nature
 - ◆ Terrifying – just like the threat of Jezebel
 - ◆ God is not in these
 - ◆ A small voice is God's tone to Elijah

3. Tone

- ★ Elijah can calm down
 - ◆ God comes with a quiet compassionate tone
 - ◆ Elijah is exhausted, discouraged, worn out.
 - ◆ What's the point of continuing?
- ★ Have you ever felt like that?

3. Tone . . .

- ✦ God comes to Elijah
 - ◆ In a tone of intimacy & compassion
 - ◆ Not a tone of authority or command
 - ◆ Comes to Elijah as friend, helper, comforter

Living It –

- ★ Awesome power is not the solution
 - ◆ He feels his work is not bearing fruit
 - ◆ He feels alone. God seems far away.
 - ◆ He goes to a quiet place
 - ◆ (The same applies to each of us)
 - ◆ God speaks to him in a small voice

Living It –

- ★ Gpd doesn't come as Lord but a soul-mate
 - ◆ Elijah doesn't just speak, he listens
 - ◆ He is not intimidated into obedience
 - ◆ He is invited into partnership

God comes to us a *friend* not as master

Prayer is not an obligation, it is a lifeline