4/5/2020

**Series: “Do Not Be Surprised”**

**Today’s Message: “The Prayer of the Righteous”**

1. **Elijah (a prophet of God) and his showdown with the false prophets of Baal and Asherah at Mt. Carmel**

**I Kings 16-18**

**16:29-33**

**17:1**

**God sent Elijah into hiding and provided food and water for him while the nation of Israel endured a great famine caused by the lack of rain**

-during the famine, **Ahab** frantically searched for **Elijah**, whom he blamed for the famine that was ravaging the land

\*in fact, **Jezebel**, the wife of **King Ahab** was executing prophets of the Lord during this extended time of famine

**About 3 years into the famine, God again spoke to Elijah**

**18:1**

**18:17-19**

**18:20**

**Elijah addresses the people**

**18:21**

**Elijah set up a challenge to demonstrate the power of God**

 -false prophets, call out to your God, and I’ll call out to the Lord

 \*the one/One who answers by fire is God

**Prophets of Baal and Asherah were to go first**

**18:25-29**

 -no one answered, no one paid attention

**Now it was Elijah’s turn**

**18:30**

**18:31-35**

**18:36-37**

**18:38-40**

-the people said **“The Lord, He is God”** and the false prophets leading the people astray were killed

**Not surprisingly, in this encounter between Elijah and the false prophets the Lord was the overwhelming Victor**

**19:1-3a**

-after hearing **Jezebel’s** threat, shockingly, **Elijah** ran for his life… - **WHAT!!!!!**

Note the tendency to have an “emotional crash” after a great victory

1. **The Prayer of the Righteous**

**James 5:16b**

**James 5:17-18**

-**Elijah** the great prophet was a man with a nature just like yours and mine (meaning he was broken and at times fearful and weak)

 \***yet God answered his prayer!!!**

 **The Prayer of the righteous person has great power – accomplishes much**

**As we pray for our nation at this time of crisis, we need to target the high places (**that is, places we place our affections)

**1. Sexual Sin**

-Pornography -Sex Trafficking -Sexual Abuse of Women and Children

-Societal Embrace of/Permission to Perversio -Pre-Marital Sex in the Church

1. **Addictions**

-Alcohol -Drugs -Technology

1. **Racism**
2. **Pursuit of Pleasure Instead of Godliness (we are too busy)**

-Sports -Entertainment -Pursuit of Money -Materialism

**These are some of the “high places”, the present day things that people place their affection in that leave them disappointed**

1. **Jesus in the Garden**

**After being asked to labor with Jesus in prayer, the disciples fell asleep - 3 times**

**Would their prayers have changed Jesus arrest and crucifixion???**

**Would their prayers have changed the way they responded when Jesus was arrested???**

**Will our prayers change America???**

The real question is **“Will we fall asleep like the disciples in this dark hour for our nation, or will we pray???**