



Sermon Discussion Guide

Preaching Passage: 1 Kings 19:1-21

Sermon Series: Prophets, Priests, & Kings – A Study of 1-2 Kings

Sermon Title: "Things Fall Apart"

Date: August 4, 2019

Preacher: Bart Box

Discussion Questions:

- 1) Think about the service as a whole from Sunday. In your own understanding, [Q] Why is it that we choose to sing some (for lack of a better term) sad songs in our time of worship through song?
 - a. [Q] Personally, do you like it when we sing these sad songs—songs like "Dear Refuge of My Weary Soul"? Why or why not?

- 2) [Q] Do you personally ever have a hard time opening up and telling others about the disappointments, discouragements, and sorrows in your life? What things contribute to your unwillingness to open up and share?

- 3) Bart pointedly asked, "I wonder if you've ever been where Elijah resides in 1 Kings 19?" Then he went on to say that the Bible records more instances and more individuals than just Elijah in despair. He pointed out Rebekah, Moses, Job, Jeremiah, Jonah, and the apostle Paul—how each of them encountered profound discouragement. He went on to give a list of things that might have described you and your hopes that have been dashed or deferred.
 - a. [Q] As you listened to this part of the sermon and reflected on your own life, what came to mind? What burden, what dream denied, what hope deferred, what desire delayed, what promise that seems to be unfulfilled?
 - i. [Q] Would you please share that with the group?
 - ii. *Leaders, this is really the aim of the whole discussion time. If this is where you are able to camp out and let people share openly and honestly, then the night is a success. The next couple of questions (4-5) are really follow-ups to what comes out of this sharing time.*

- 4) Bart talked about the importance of Biblical community for those in our congregation who find themselves in the same place as Elijah in 1 Kings 19:4. He suggested that if you know someone who is in this place, then you know them on purpose. Then, Bart went on to suggest that for those that are suffering, this text shows us the need to lean into community, not away from it. We must resist the urge to run away from the help that God intends to provide.
 - a. [Q] Why is our tendency to lean away from community in times of despair?
 - b. [Q] How have you been blessed by biblical community when you did lean into it, rather than away from it in times of difficulty?
 - c. [Q] Recalling these truths, is there still any particular burden that anyone would want to share with the group?

- 5) [Q] In light of the things that have been shared, what are some tangible ways that we can respond to our hurting brothers and sisters?
 - a. Recall how the Lord provided for despairing Elijah in the tangible way of bread.

- 6) Bart said that Elijah, after the high of 1 Kings 18, was being reminded that God's ways and our expectations don't always intersect.
 - a. [Q] How have you seen this to be true in your life?
 - b. [Q] How have you seen this to be good?