

It's just You and me, Lord!

Ponder: Do you feel like you're the only one faithfully serving God?

Scripture: "Yet I have reserved seven thousand in Israel, all whose knees have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him" (1 Kings 19:18, NKJV).

My mother used to say that someone who was really down in the dumps was "as blue as a gizzard"! If you've seen uncooked chicken gizzards, you understand. The prophet Elijah was as blue as a gizzard in First Kings chapter nineteen. He just wanted to die. "It is enough! Now, Lord, take my life, for I am no better than my fathers" (v. 4).

Why was Elijah so discouraged? "I have been very zealous for the Lord God of hosts; for the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they seek to take my life" (v. 10).

True enough Jezebel, had perpetrated a wholesale slaughter of the prophets of the true God (1 Kings 18:4). Now she was outraged because Elijah had put to death 450 of her Baal prophets, along with 400 prophets of Asherah (the goddess counterpart to Baal). "Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, 'So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time'" (19:2).

So, don't be too rough on Elijah. Had you been in his shoes, you might not have done as well as he did! To be sure, Elijah was not alone, though he certainly felt that way. The godly servant Obadiah had saved 100 prophets of the Lord, hiding them in caves (18:13). Besides, the Lord still had 7000 in Israel who were not Baal-worshippers – a small, but significant, minority (19:18).

Our world is jam-packed with false religions. Even among professing Christians, most have strayed from New Testament teaching and practice. It's tempting to feel like Elijah: "It's just you and me, Lord!" But God has always dealt in remnants. I'm convinced He still has his 7000, so to speak, who hold to the pattern.

Christian, you are not alone! Lean on the Lord, and lean on others who are striving to be faithful!