

What Are You Doing Here?

...And behold, there came a voice to him and said, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” (1 Kings 19:13, ESV)

In the text above, Elijah, the prophet of God, found himself a long way from home. He had, with the help of God, just recently won his greatest victory. That was on Mt. Carmel, a location in northern Israel. Now he was at Mt. Horeb (Sinai), far to the south. How did he get there? Why was he there? To find the answers, let's analyze the question put to Elijah.

“What are you doing here?” The answer was very obvious—he was running. The initial decision wasn't hard to figure out. In fact, we are told that Queen Jezebel swore to kill Elijah (1 Kings 19:1,2) and that Elijah was *afraid* and *ran*. It may seem strange to us, but to Elijah, it was perfectly logical. He wanted to live. However, as he continued to run, he began to despair, and even asked God to take his life. In his thought processes, Elijah needed to deal with his fear and to understand how he ended up so far away from where he needed to be.

“What are you doing here?” Had he forgotten who he was? He was God's prophet—a man who had prayed for it not to rain, had prayed for fire from heaven, and had prayed for rain, and had received positive answers to all three prayers. He had even raised a young man from the dead. What was he, God's humble and able prophet doing so far from the place he needed to be? Elijah needed to face himself and realize his potential if he was to continue to be the man he needed to be.

“What are you doing here?” After 200-300 miles of travel, Elijah found himself at Mt. Sinai, a mountain where God was known to have manifested himself (Exodus 3,19, etc.). He must have thought that, since things were so hopeless and he was the only faithful one left (1 Kings 19:14), it was the perfect place to go. However, God's work was not done, and things were not truly hopeless. Elijah was needed somewhere besides Sinai. All of God's actions toward Elijah at this time were to motivate him to put himself back in action, back in the place where God needed him to be.

What about you? Have decisions and actions carried you far away from where you need to be? If you are a Christian, you are God's child (1 John 3:1)—blessed with many blessings (Ephesians 1:3), and able to pray fervently (James 5:16,17). You *can* overcome (Romans 8:31). *Will* you? —

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