

"The Sound of a Whisper"

Theme: God never fails, even when He changes the way He speaks.

Introduction: Recapping the "Middle Chapter"

- Recap last week's message from Acts 12: Sometimes we get stuck in the grief of "James" (our unmet expectations) and miss "Peter" knocking at the door. We learned not to judge God in the middle of the story.
- Elijah—a man who saw God move in blazing fire, only to find himself huddled in a cave of silence.

1: The Crash After the Fire (1 Kings 19:1–4)

- **The Context:** Elijah had just experienced a "Mt. Carmel high"—fire fell from heaven, Baal's prophets were defeated, and God's power was undeniable.
- **The Reality:** Immediately after, Jezebel threatens his life. Elijah runs. He sits under a broom tree and says, *"It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life."*
- **The Link:** Like the church in Acts 12 who watched James die right after experiencing explosive growth, Elijah went from unstoppable victory to deep isolation. We often expect God to keep using the "fire" to solve our problems. When the fire stops, we think God has failed.

2: The Illusion of the Silence (1 Kings 19:11–12)

- Elijah stands on the mountain. A great wind tears the mountains apart, but the Lord is not in the wind. An earthquake shakes the ground, but the Lord is not in the earthquake. A fire passes by, but the Lord is not in the fire.
- **The Shift:** We usually look for God in the loud, the dramatic, and the spectacular. We expect Him to answer our "James" situations with a thunderbolt.
- **The Lesson:** Just because God isn't shouting doesn't mean He has stopped working.

God's silence is not His absence. It is His intimacy. You have to be close to someone to hear them whisper.

3: The Danger of "Sign-Seeking" (Matthew 12:38-39 / Matthew 16:1-4)

- **The Scripture:** Bring in Jesus' interaction with the religious leaders. They came to Him demanding a "sign from heaven" to prove who He was. Jesus replied: *"A wicked and adulterous generation looks for a sign, but none will be given it except the sign of Jonah."*
- **The Connection:**
 - Why were they asking for a sign? Because Jesus didn't fit their expectations of a military Messiah who would violently overthrow Rome (much like how the church in Acts 12 struggled because James' death didn't fit their expectations of an unstoppable church).
 - They wanted the "earthquake and fire" of political revolution. They completely missed the "whisper" standing right in front of them: God in human flesh, healing the broken, feeding the hungry, and preaching love.

- **The Trap:** When we demand that God perform a specific "sign" to prove He is faithful, we are actually telling God *how* He has to behave. When He doesn't perform on our command, we assume He has failed. But Jesus warns us: **If you are only looking for spectacular signs, you will miss the point of what God is actually doing.**

4: The Final Whisper (Hebrews 1:1-2)

- **The Scripture:**

"In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son..."

- **The Revelation:**

- In the Old Testament, God spoke in "various ways"—sometimes through fire, sometimes through a pillar of cloud, and sometimes in a quiet whisper to Elijah on a mountain.
- But Hebrews tells us that the days of guessing in the silence are over. God has *already* spoken His final, definitive Word. That Word is a Person: **Jesus.**

- **God Never Fails because Jesus Never Fails:**

- If you are waiting in the silence, wondering if God has abandoned you or if He has failed, you don't need to wait for a new sign, a thunderbolt, or a voice from the sky.
- Look at the Cross. Look at the empty tomb. **Jesus is the ultimate proof that God does not fail.** On Good Friday, it looked like the ultimate failure—Jesus was dead, just like James in Acts 12. But Sunday was already being written.

Conclusion: Trusting the Whisperer

- If you are in a quiet season, it is not because God has failed you. It is because He is inviting you closer.
- You don't need a loud earthquake to prove God is with you. You just need to lean in to hear His whisper: *"I have not forgotten you."*
- **Closing Call:** Let go of how you *think* God should answer (the fire, the spectacular rescue) and open your ears to how He *is* answering (the quiet, faithful whisper).