

The Day After

Now Ahab told Jezebel everything Elijah had done and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. So Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah to say, "May the gods deal with me, be it ever so severely, if by this time tomorrow I do not make your life like that of one of them." Elijah was afraid and ran for his life. When he came to Beersheba in Judah, he left his servant there, while he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness. He came to a broom bush, sat down under it and prayed that he might die. "I have had enough, Lord," he said. "Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors."

1 Kings 19:1-4 (NIV)

This is the day after Christmas and somehow many people feel let down. All they planned for has happened and now all they look forward to are unpaid bills of Christmas, taking down decorations, throwing out the wrappings, taking clothes back that did not fit the intended recipient. For us in the northern climate we also have the harsh realities of winter. So many go from great joy to great sorrow that the party has ended and another day has dawned without joyful surprises.

Elijah, a great prophet in the Old Testament, had just finished the greatest day of his entire life. He had just routed the forces of evil represented by the prophets of Baal, a deity worshipped by pagans. Coming down from the mountain of battle, the man ought to have thought he could destroy any enemy after what God had done for him there.

However, sometimes the day after some great victory we are especially vulnerable to attacks that bring us from the

mountain top of victory to the depths of defeat. Elijah had received a threat from a Phoenician princess called Jezebel. She promised to do to him what he had done to her prophets. She also told Elijah it would happen within 24 hours.

Elijah fell into a fit of depression and fled for his life. While this is an exaggeration of how some of us feel the day after Christmas it is a vivid reminder of how we humans work. Being let down the day after Christmas is always a time when we become especially sad that it is all over.

Believers in Jesus have the great hope of partying in eternity. Jesus spoke to His followers about a great feast and celebration that would take place when He came the second time (Revelation 19:6-9). What a celebration! All sorrow gone, all pain and death in the past—joy fills all our hearts as we think of that great supper of the Lamb.

Is that your expectation? Is your heart longing for heaven and

home? Does every day seem full of holy expectation for you?

If not, then you have every right to depression and discouragement. For you there is no hope because you are without God in this world. Why do you not come to the Saviour, Whose birth you have just celebrated and submit to His authority in your life?

Jesus' grace is always greater than our need, however, His patience is limited. Do not prolong your resistance to Him. Come and welcome to the forgiveness you so desperately need.

All you need to come to Jesus in repentance and faith. These two things he freely gives. Come and welcome!

Make the day after the best day of your life as you take hold of things eternal.

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