



The Eleven Who Didn't Leave

MAIN THING

The church's power is found in the small and the insignificant, not in the big and bold

SCRIPTURE

1 Kings 19:1-18, Acts 16:25-34

ICEBREAKER

One song that everyone else likes that I can't stand is

OPENING THOUGHT

The church has power in the small and seemingly insignificant, not in the big show or the great miracle. In both the Old Testament and New Testament, big displays of power rarely had any lasting effect. Moses parted the Red Sea, and the next day the people were grumbling against God and making a Golden Calf. Jesus fed the five-thousand, and the next day they were hungry again. However, God chooses to do His best work in the small things- your simple presence at the bedside of a sick friend, your kindness to someone in need, your small gift in a time of desperation. Those are the things that have true lasting power, and they are things that everyday people can do every day.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What was the one thing that you heard this past Sunday that stuck out to you? Why did it resonate with you like it did?
2. When you are feeling like you are the "only one left," what do you typically do?
3. The sermon made the point that it wasn't the earthquake that prompted the jailer to ask how he could be saved. It was the fact that all the prisoners were still there. How does that translate to today? How can we make the hearts of people ready to hear the gospel using this passage of Scripture?

LIFE APPLICATION

Many times it feels like you aren't accomplishing anything, that you are stuck in neutral. Then you look back and see how far you've come over the last ten years. The things you will have accomplished for the kingdom aren't the big grand miracles- they are the "stay in the game, don't quit, keep pressing on" kind of things that you did over a period of years. Many times you will face the choice to keep going when many others will quit. What kind of example is that to the unbelieving world?

It wasn't until the jailer saw that the prisoners, who had every reason to leave the jail, were still there that he asked Paul and Silas what he must do to be saved. The jailer had looked at the situation and had decided that there was no hope, that the circumstances were beyond his ability to handle, and that death was better. The fact that Paul was still there not only saved his life, but also saved his soul. Your presence, when it makes all the sense in the world to quit or leave, could be the greatest witness to the gospel you'll ever make in life.

CHALLENGE

Instead of a challenge, let's have a celebration. What is your favorite thing about your church?