



# **PATHFINDERS**

Leading this generation into true  
manhood!!

**Pathfinders are Resilient!**

**1 Kings 19:13-15**

**Men's Breakfast**

**Sermon given on August 20, 2022**



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# Pathfinders are Resilient!

*1 Kings 19:13-15*

## Opening Comments

- Today we continue the series: **PATHFINDERS: Leading this generation into true manhood!**
- As a rule, most humans prefer to exist in a state of equilibrium with the world around them
- They want everything to be in order and in balance around them
- What is the problem with that desire?
- Order and balance are relative concepts
- What is ordered to someone else might be disordered to others
- Gender identity is an example of this
- To a man who believes or at least says he believes he is a woman – order would be everyone around them agreeing with their delusion and treating them as a woman
- To that person it would be disordered for someone to refuse to use their preferred pronouns
- But to the person who refuses to use their preferred pronouns it is disordered for a man to believe or say he believes he is a woman
- It would be like me believing that I was King of California
- My preferred pronouns are Your Majesty and His Royal Highness
- It is disordered because it is not true, even though I might be convinced in my mind that it is true – it is delusion
- Most of us will rarely ever find ourselves wrestling in that cesspool
- Our disorders and imbalances will be found in more mundane areas of life – marriage, family, work, and church life
- Sometimes these can be small differences of personality – like you wanting to watch hunting shows and she wants to watch baking shows
- Sometimes it is just life happening around you
- Our daughter-in-law Rachael recently had a neurological event
- She lost the ability to speak or walk and was having trouble breathing
- She was hospitalized for several days and is now home recovering

- My son, Philip works in Yorba Linda, and so Kelly and I (mostly Kelly) have had to step in and help
- That took our life out of balance – it is forcing a new order to our life
- We are being squeezed and stretched in ways we didn't expect or desire – not in our plan
- This morning, I would like to talk about how men of God ought to respond to the stresses, interruptions, and changes life uses to disrupt the equilibrium of our lives
- Turn to **I Kings 19**
- Elijah the prophet was called to minister to the Northern tribes of Israel
- At the time of this account – Ahab is king of Israel – a wicked king
- He is married to Jezebel – the epitome of wicked women
- God caused a drought which led to a famine that lasted three and a half years
- God had done some radical miracles through Elijah, including raising a boy from the dead
- God sends Elijah to King Ahab to let him know that the drought is about to end, so that Ahab knows that it is God's doing
- Before the rain comes, God inspires Elijah to call for a contest between the prophets of the false gods of Baal and Ashtoreth and himself, the prophet of God
- 850 prophets against one – God proves that He is the only true God, and all the false prophets are put to death
- Elijah prays and then a small cloud can be seen on the horizon
- Elijah tells Ahab to hurry back home before the rain stops him
- And then God enabled Elijah to run in front of Ahab's chariot all the way to Jezreel
- Elijah must be flying high at this point – God has shown Himself strong through Elijah
- Then Queen Jezebel finds out what Elijah did to the false prophets and sends a messenger to let him know she plans on having him killed
- Elijah takes off running away from the threat – for forty days
- He ends up at Horeb, the mountain of God

- This is where Moses encountered the burning bush
  - Elijah also has an encounter with God there
  - **1 Kings 19:9-12**
  - God asks Elijah the question, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”
  - Elijah tells God about how great a prophet he is and how difficult his life is
  - **1 Kings 19:13**
  - God repeats His question to Elijah
  - Elijah responds in a very peculiar way – He repeats his answer
  - When God repeats a question you have already answered, it means your answer was not satisfactory
  - Elijah’s equilibrium was broken by Jezebel’s threat
  - **1 Kings 19:14**
  - He feels alone and defeated
  - He runs away – far away – what will God tell Elijah to encourage him?
  - **1 Kings 19:15a**
  - God tells Elijah to go back – he is not finished yet
  - Elijah was a man of God who got distracted from the path God wanted him to follow
  - And here, forty days away from the troubles of his life God tells him to go back
  - Elijah had been running well, but then under pressure he caved
  - Elijah did go back, and God continued to use him mightily
  - One of the traits of a Pathfinder is resilience
  - Before we talk about what it looks like in a Pathfinder, we should define it
- Resilience: (1) the capability of a strained body to recover its size and shape after deformation caused especially by compressive stress (2) an ability to recover from or adjust easily to misfortune or change**
- We are most interested in that second definition
  - Elijah had caved under the pressure of a threat from wicked queen Jezebel after he had been a part of God’s miraculous work on Mount Carmel
  - Resilience is evidence of faith

- In Matthew 8, Jesus told the disciples to get into a boat and go across the lake
- While Jesus slept a storm arose and the disciples freaked out **Matthew 8:25-26a**

Then His disciples came to *Him* and awoke Him, saying, “Lord, save us! We are perishing!” <sup>26</sup> But He said to them, “Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?”

- Elijah broke under the stress of Jezebel’s threats
- The disciples broke under the fear of the storm
- Stress and pressure are the natural state when living in a fallen world
- And that is especially true when you choose to follow Christ and fulfill your God-ordained role as spiritual leader
- Stress doesn’t have to break us, and pressure doesn’t have to crush us
- What we need is resiliency
- I would like to share three things with you this morning to help you be more resilient
- First – **Be Flexible!**
- The more rigid you are, the more stress you are going to experience
- And the easier it will be to be broken by the stress
- It is fascinating how sometimes the smallest of things can stress us out
- For a significant part of my marriage, there was a regular source of stress in my relationship with Kelly
- Anytime we were going somewhere together, I would want to leave about 15 minutes earlier than we needed to
- For me, early was on time!
- Kelly had a completely different attitude, she would want to leave so that we arrived exactly on time, with no margin for delays or traffic
- And there was always one more thing that needed to be done before we could leave
- It used to really bother me – The idea of being late was unsettling to me – It still does, but not like it used to
- It could ruin an outing that was supposed to be fun
- Over the decades that I have been with Kelly, God has ministered to my heart on that
- Kelly knows it bothers me and so she has been working on her side

- I tell her what time I want to leave, and then I try to be ready earlier than that and try to take care of all the things she is going to want to do before we leave
- Be flexible! **Philippians 2:3**  
*Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.*
- If the boss wants something done a way you wouldn't do it, do it their way – if you can, share your thoughts, but remember, they are the boss
- Choose to be flexible – choose to be okay being flexible
- Being flexible is an expression of humility
- Being flexible is also important as we walk through this fallen world
- Obstacles, roadblocks, and detours are a regular part of life
- Flexibility helps you not to be broken every time one of those things shows up in your life
- High inflation and gas prices may have impacted your plans
- What are you going to do about it
- Pray and ask God to help you adjust your plan and to be flexible
- Second thing – **Accept Reality!**
- These two go hand-in-hand – be flexible & accept reality
- I know that many of you have experienced things like what we are going through with Rachael
- When she went into the hospital, everything changed for our family
- In addition to taking care of his 7- and 4-year-old children, Philip now also has to care for his wife – to help her do many things
- Because Philip also has to go to work, Kelly has had to step in help
- And because Kelly is doing that, I am picking up things that she can't do
- I am having to adapt my schedule to make sure I am around when I am needed
- Now, we are hoping this is a temporary arrangement, but we don't know that yet
- That is our reality right now – “It is what it is!”
- I could whine and complain, or be angry or resentful
- Or I can accept this is reality and strive to be more flexible
- Third and finally – **Manage Expectations!**

- Expectations are focused on future results or actions
- For example: I expect to get my desk moved out of storage and into my office today
- Or: I expect Rachael to fully recover
- The problem with expectations is that they are based on something we can't control – the future and the natural world around us
- It is our hope that Rachael fully recovers, but what if she doesn't
- If my expectation is that she will, it will be a source of frustration, anger, bitterness, and brokenness if she doesn't
- Our expectations must take the first two things into consideration
- Reality – what is real and true
- I don't know what the future holds, and I don't know what the healing process is going to look like for her
- Every day must be faced in the reality of how she is doing
- And with that comes the flexibility of being for her what she and her family needs as they go through this
- Being resilient means, you are not easily broken or crushed by the things of life
- Be flexible – make a plan – but then if life throws a change, interruption, detour, or roadblock, don't freak out – adapt and keep going and keep your eyes on Jesus
- Accept reality – God holds all of reality in His hands – trust Him – He knows what He is doing
- Manage expectations – Only God knows the future, place all your hopes in Him and be ready to be flexible and accept whatever reality that comes.
- Pathfinders are resilient
- **Let's pray!**