

## Labor Day Meditation: Elijah's Cave

I Kings 18 - 19

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It is Labor Day Weekend and lots of people are traveling so I thought I'd take a break from our series through the book of John and preach on labor and a passage. That's intrigued me for a long time.

It's a story of Elijah in I Kings 18 & 19. In 874 BC, Ahab became king in Israel. He took for his queen the Sidonian princess *Jezebel* (when vocalized in Hebrew, the name *Jezebel* means "no dung"); (the queen who takes "no dung").

Jezebel enticed Ahab in to worshipping Baal and his consort Ashera. Baal was the fertility God who rode the storms, hurling fiery lightning bolts and bringing rain...rain which fertilized the earth by impregnating Ashera...the Earth Mother, who bore fruit. To Jezebel, Baal and Ashera were earth, wind, fire  
...the fundamental elements of Creation.

The worship of Baal involved cultic prostitution and human sacrifice. And for Baal, Jezebel had the prophets of the Lord massacred. But Elijah prophesized to Ahab, saying that the Lord would stop the rain and the Lord did. Elijah fled into the wilderness where he was fed by ravens.

In the third year of the drought, Elijah challenges Ahab to summon the prophets of Baal and Ashera and assemble all Israel on Mt. Carmel.

In *I Kings 18:22* on Mt. Carmel, Elijah proclaims to all:

*<sup>22</sup> Then Elijah said to the people "I, even I only, am left a prophet of the Lord; but Baal's prophets number four hundred fifty. <sup>23</sup>Let two bulls be given to us; let them choose one bull for themselves, cut it in pieces, and lay it on the wood, but put no fire to it; I will prepare the other bull and lay it on the wood, but put no fire on it. <sup>24</sup>Then you call on the name of your god and I will call on the name of the Lord; the god who answers by fire is indeed God." All the people answered, "Well spoken!"*

I Kings 18:22-24 (NRSV)

So on that Mt. of Judgment the prophets of Baal call on their god. They shout, dance and cut themselves. At high noon Elijah taunts them saying,

"Maybe your god is busy, or asleep or taking a dump and can't be bothered."  
The priests of Baal continue their ravings until evening and nothing happens.

Then in verse 31, Elijah takes 12 stones (symbolizing the 12 tribes of Israel). He takes them up the mountain and labors. He labors to build an altar, which he

names "Israel." Then he digs a trench, or ditch, around the altar. He puts the "ates" (that is tree wood or timber) on "Israel" – the altar. And on the timber he places the Sacrifice. Then Elijah prays that Israel would see the Fire of God...  
And know God.

At that, the Fire of God descends upon the mountain  
...consuming the sacrifice  
...the wood and even Israel  
...the stone altar.

The people cry out, "Yahweh, (I AM that I AM) is God" and together they slaughter the prophets of Baal. Elijah's servant climbs the mountain and looks to the sea seven times. On the seventh time the sky grows black with rain. The drought is over and Elijah is filled with the power of God as he runs ahead of King Ahab's chariot all the way to Jezreel (17 miles away).

Undoubtedly he's thinking, "It's done. My labor was not in vain. Now Israel will have faith."

Imagine if we had faith like Elijah?  
...Faith in a God who answers with Fire?  
...Faith in Fire Power?

*<sup>18</sup>But the hand of the Lord was on Elijah; he girded up his loins and ran in front of Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel.*

*<sup>19</sup><sup>1</sup> Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. <sup>2</sup>Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So may the gods do to me, and more also, if I do not make your life like the life of one of them by this time tomorrow." <sup>3</sup>Then he was afraid; he got up and fled for his life, and came to Beer-sheba, which belongs to Judah; he left his servant there. <sup>4</sup>But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die: "It is enough; now. O Lord, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors."*

I Kings 18:46-19:4 (NRSV)

Elijah runs to save his life and then prays "God take my life!"  
Can you imagine?

After seeing all of that power...  
earth, wind, fire and rain.  
After all that...  
he curls up under...  
a tree and wants to die.

Can you imagine?  
I CAN.

I can imagine... I think I've curled up under that very same tree on more than one occasion.

Elijah prayed “enough.” All that labor:  
three years in the wilderness;  
challenging a whole country;  
building Israel;  
calling down fire  
and still Jezebel didn’t believe and so Ahab didn’t believe.  
Elijah was exhausted and overwhelmed...overwhelmed with evil I suppose. He’d probably witnessed human sacrifice, demonic oppression, mass starvation, ritual occult prostitution and now Jezebel’s stone cold heart.

Sometimes, I’m just utterly overwhelmed by the depths of evil in this world.  
Americans are experts at denial but if you see the evil...it’ll knock you to your knees under the tree.

It’s overwhelming.  
And yet even more overwhelming is the power of God.

I remember the first time I witnessed a demon cast out of a man. It was not subtle and I was totally overwhelmed ...by the power of God.  
Since then, on numerous occasions, I’ve seen Jesus cast out demons and even crush Satan with words that have come out of my mouth. I’ve been pinned to the floor by the power of God.

I’ve seen people mowed down by His spirit. I witnessed a friend healed of HIV.  
Felt my leg miraculously grow and received words and visions that can’t be explained away.  
It wasn’t always like that...but now I’m 50 and I can’t deny it. I’ve witnessed astounding fire power. And, at times, it has literally been overwhelming.

I know some of you think, “If only I saw a miracle, then I’d have faith.” Well you might have a certain kind of faith –  
...faith in fireworks (like Israel)  
...but faith in fireworks is not faith in God.

You may think “If I only saw a miracle...it would be better.” And yet, I’ve found, (and I think Elijah found), in some ways it can be worse  
...’cause you wonder  
“God, why do you need my labor?”

You know:  
God can send fire from heaven.  
God can create money in the mouth of fish.  
God can heal any disease and even raise the dead.  
God can make His Voice boom from heaven as the sky itself rolls up like a scroll.

So, why do I have to sit at my desk and labor and labor to write a sermon? Why do you have to go to work and labor to feed your ungrateful kids?  
WHY?

If you've really seen God's power, you've got to wonder...why does God need us and our labor. Elijah's got to be wondering...why do you need me.

...One little skinny old man running around a mountain consumed by Holy Fire.

Such fire power and yet the power still doesn't do the job.

...Jezebel still doesn't believe

... and as we all know Israel doesn't really believe.

So, soon they'll be overrun by Syrians and Assyrians. Such fire power and such lack of faith. And now Elijah's got to be wondering

..."Where's the fire now?..."

God you could at least fry Jezebel."

So, Elijah cries "Enough!" and curls up in ball under a tree in the dark...

...exhausted,

...overwhelmed

...and forsaken.

He must feel forsaken by God. The fire is gone. His heart cries "My God, my God why have you forsaken me?"

Sometimes, I think I feel like Elijah. Like god has asked me to labor – to dig a ditch, for instance, and I dig - sometimes even in the power of God, himself - but I turn around and He's filled in the ditch. I carry stones up a mountain...and sometimes I feel it...the Power of God. Then He knocks the stones down. "Not one left standing on top of another."

You know the entire Old Testament is all about building a city. Moses, David, Elijah; they're all about building a stone city called Jerusalem...The City of Peace. Sometimes, they even build it in the very Power of God and yet God himself has it torn down. "Not one stone left standing on top of another." Some are still trying to build it

...The City of Peace

...and it's the most violent city on the face of this planet.

So, ever feel like Elijah? All your life you labor, eating bread by the "sweat of your brow," and for what? You labor...sometimes even in the power of God...then you die. Do you realize that everyone miraculously healed by the Power of God in the last 5,000 years is dead or under the age of 110 and about to die?

Labor...and for what?

What's the point of all this labor?

"Enough" cries Elijah as he curls up under the tree...

Inadequate, exhausted, overwhelmed, forsaken and alone.

Elijah has said it and will say it again "I alone." It's lonely labor, standing in front of people, charged with speaking the Word of the Lord...

I have great friends and an incredible wife...yet I often feel so thoroughly alone in

my labor; delivering the Word of God. Now, please don't feel sorry for me... 'cause I already feel sorry for myself. Maybe you ought to feel sorry for yourself. We're all charged with "delivering" the Word of God...that is speaking Truth in Love to the people in our lives. That is we each must learn to exercise Faith, Hope, and Love...and that is lonely labor.

So, do you ever feel overwhelmed by "the Journey?" You've built the altar  
...felt the fire  
...shivered in the darkness  
...you know that place under the tree.

You've asked the question...  
"God, what is the point of all this labor?"  
Maybe, you've even begged Him, like Elijah,  
"Please...just let me die."

Well, Elijah curled up under the tree...feeling sorry for himself. But somebody else was feeling sorry for him...too.

*<sup>5</sup>Then as he lay and slept under a broom tree, suddenly an angel touched him, and said to him, "Arise and eat." <sup>6</sup>Then he looked, and there by his head was a cake baked on coals, and a jar of water. So he ate and drank, and lay down again. <sup>7</sup>And the angel of the Lord...*

1 Kings 19:5-7 (NKJV)

The Angel of the Lord is this amazing Old Testament figure. He's like fully God and fully man and Elijah meets him at the tree.

*...the Angel of the LORD came back the second time, and touched him, and said, "Arise and eat, because the journey is too great for you."*

1 Kings 19:5-7 (NKJV)

"Too much for you" ...I love that. He doesn't say "You can do it!" But, Elijah, "It is too great...too much for you." Such compassion...especially when you consider that, at this point, Elijah appears to be running from God's call.

I vaguely remember my mom making sandwiches for me as a little boy... the day I told her I was running away from home.

"Oh Peter – the journey is too much for you."

Several times in prayer...helping a friend through some awful memories...Jesus has said to my friend, "I'm sorry." I don't think that means that He's apologizing for God. I think that means He feels sorrow for us.

If we see His sorrow for us, perhaps we won't feel so sorry for ourselves.  
For then it's not just our sorrow, it's His.

Well Elijah was feeling sorrow for himself. The Angel of Yahweh felt sorrow for

Him too. Elijah wasn't alone

...even at the end of Himself

especially at the end of himself.

The Angel said "The journey is too much for you Elijah." I suspect that journey is Elijah's life.

"It's too much for you."

"Have you come to the end of yourself Elijah?"

"It's too much for you."

"Eat my bread...drink my cup."

"Take my life...under the tree."

*<sup>8</sup>So he arose, and ate and drank; and he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights as far as Horeb, the mountain of God. <sup>9</sup>And there he went into a cave [a cave like a tomb... from the tree to the tomb] and spent the night in that place; and behold, the word of the Lord came to him....*

1 Kings 19:8-9

Did you get that? The Word of the Lord came to him and will speak to him...a Word man speaking words. The Word of the Lord is like a man and yet God...who is the Word of God?

*and behold, the word of the LORD came to him [and he'd gone here in strength of Lord] and He said to him, "What are you doing here Elijah?"*

1 Kings 19:8-9

Now that's funny. I don't care who you are, that there is funny. Elijah thinks he's working (laboring) but Elijah is getting worked.

"What are you doing here Elijah?"

What is Elijah doing there? Well, when I think of Elijah, I picture him something like this:

Clip from *Monty Python*

Tim, the Enchanter, blows things up. King Arthur and his Knights clap.

Elijah likes fireworks...I like fireworks. So many times I've prayed,

"God, just slay everybody in the Spirit.

"Just blow our little service to bits."

I know He can do it. Well, I think Elijah was looking for more fireworks. So, if Mount Carmel didn't do the trick, surely Mount Horeb would. What's Mount Horeb?

Clip from *The Ten Commandments*

Narrator:

*And Moses led Israel from the Red Sea into the wilderness of Sinai and they camped before the Holy Mountain.*

Voice of God (fire):

*I am the Lord, thy God. Thou shalt have no other gods before Me.*

(Fire burns the *Ten Commandments* into the tablets of stone. Moses approaches the tablets of stone.)

Narrator:

*Written with the finger of God.*

(Moses takes the tablets and places them under his arm.)

Mount Horeb is Mount Sinai. You want to talk fireworks...Mount Horeb is the Glory Days. Do you ever look for Glory in the past? Mount Horeb is...

Fireworks

Signs and wonders

Power encounters.

One Bible scholar in England told a colleague of mine "Elijah went to Mount Horeb because he was an American. So much faith in America consists of weekend to weekend power encounters."

The Word asks Elijah, "What are you doing here Elijah?"

It's like the Word of God is asking,

"Are you looking for bigger tricks with Earth, Wind and Fire?"

"Elijah, did you think God, was God, just because He has bigger Tricks than Baal?"

"Why are you here Elijah?"

The Word sounds just like Jesus: "Why do you seek after signs? An evil and adulterous generation seeks after signs," said Jesus. Adulterers seek the Sign but not the Substance. "They seek the attributes and not the person."

So they have Faith in the Signs of Love and Deeds of Love

...but do not know Love.

The Law describes the Deeds of Love

...but it is not Love.

...God is Love.

"Elijah, what are you doing here?" asks the Word of God.

<sup>10</sup>*[Elijah] answered, "I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away."*

["I've been zealous for you Lord; laboring for you Lord; saving you Lord."]

*<sup>11</sup>He (the Word of the Lord) said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by." Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; <sup>12</sup>and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence.*

1 Kings 19:10-12 (NRSV)

"The sound of sheer silence" (that's the NRSV); "thin silence" or "low whisper" (is the ESV) and "still small voice" (is KJV).

If it is a voice...it appears to have been the voice beyond all voices

"the sound of silence"

under all the noise is silence.

And yet that silence speaks louder than all creation.

"The sound of sheer silence." The Hebrew is very enigmatic ...all we really know is that, it wasn't "Earth, Wind or Fire"...not an element of the created order...not a created thing.

All we really know is that God wasn't "in" the Earth, Wind or Fire, but in their absence; the absence of creation...

GOD is I AM that I AM, I AM.

He is Holy Wind and consuming Fire...but not just wind and fire.

He is not in them...and yet everything is in Him.

He is just so much more than everything.

There's a story about three monks:

One decided to preach the gospel. One decided to care for the sick. One decided to meditate in the desert in a cave. The first one became overwhelmed with his task and went to visit the second one, who'd grown bone tired with everybody's needs.

Together they visited the third one who they figured would be lonely in the cave, but he was neither exhausted, tired or lonely. They shared their struggle. He was silent. Then he poured some muddy water into a glass vase – "Just look at the water," he said.

They sat in silence awhile and he said, "See how it cleared?"

Perhaps all creation - earth, wind and fire - is like the particles [dust particles] suspended in that troubled water.

We have trouble seeing God for all the dust

...but when we were still; we see

...or better yet, know.

*The mountains shake...the waters roar and foam. [overwhelming]  
The earth melts: He breaks the bow and shatters the spear.  
He burns the chariots with Fire. Be still.  
Be still and know I AM. I AM GOD*

Psalm 46

On Mount Horeb, Moses saw Earth, Wind and Fire and received the Law. But  
Elijah met I AM...not the Signs, but the Substance.

God is three Persons...one Substance

...the Substance is Love.

That's what all the fireworks are about.

That's what all creation is about.

Julian at Norwich wrote:

*...choose to set at nothing everything that is made so as to have the love  
of God who is unmade. God wishes to be known, and is pleased that we  
should rest in Him; for all that is below Him does nothing to satisfy us. And  
this is why, until all that is made seems as nothing, no soul can be at rest.*

*"Six days you will labor and one day you will rest," said the Lord. "Until all  
that is made seems as nothing; no soul can be at rest" said Julian.*

*You know: I am made and unmade.*

*I am created dust and uncreated breath of God.*

Eccl. 3, "God has placed eternity in our hearts." Yet our bodies are made of dust.  
If I understand correctly, God's still placing eternity in our hearts.

"Our outer nature is wasting away" wrote Paul, "but our inner-nature is being  
renewed every day." Perhaps that's why "six days you shall labor" ...exerting our  
self, we see the end of our self. It's through our labor, that we come to the end of  
ourselves which is the beginning of Him...and our New Self...and the seventh  
day.

So, labor. Then be still and know God, your Father.

*<sup>12</sup> and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after  
the fire as sound of sheer silence. <sup>13</sup>When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his  
face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.  
Then there came a voice to him that said, "What are you doing here,  
Elijah?"*

1 Kings 19:12-13 (NRSV)

Once again Elijah shares his sorrow and the voice says, "Go." He is to speak. The Word of God is in him.

*<sup>15</sup>Then the LORD said to him: "Go, return on your way to the Wilderness of Damascus; and when you arrive, anoint Hazael as king over Syria. Also you shall anoint Jehu the son of Nimshi as king over Israel. And Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel Meholah you shall anoint as prophet in your place.*

1 Kings 19:15-16 (NKJV)

[The Syrians were Israel's worst enemy at the time.]

"Anoint Hazael over Syria."

"Jehu over Israel."

"Elisha in your place."

When Elijah finally prophesizes over Hazael of Syria, he's weeping for He knows Hazael will "rip open the pregnant women of Israel" (2Kings 8:12) and dash their babies to pieces.

"Go anoint Hazael king over Syria," says the Lord to Elijah. The Syrians, Assyrians, Babylonians, Greeks, and Romans will utterly decimate Israel.

So, back to our original question:

"What's the purpose... the point ...of all this labor?"

Answer:

A baby

wrapped in swaddling clothes  
and lying in a manger.

Israel gives birth

Jerusalem gives birth  
this old creation gives birth.

Genesis 3: *"Adam your labor will be toil and Eve childbirth will be pain"  
"but you will give birth to the Promised One."*

I've never seen a person more exhausted, overwhelmed and lonely in their labor than my wife as my first son was being born. The labor came in waves (like an earthquake or a storm) and then silence.

...A rhythm of labor and silence.

*Six days, you shall labor and one you shall rest.*

Between contractions, in the silence, I'd speak.

And the Word of the Father would come to the Bride and the Word would even come to the Son in the womb like a voice from beyond.

His Word –

the voice beyond all voices.

Well, giving birth hurts; it hurts the mother and hurts the son. And, so neither mother nor son was alone in that pain. They communed in that sorrow. Could there ever be a more intimate communion than the pain of that labor? And, what a strange sort of labor.

Labor doesn't create a child  
...labor reveals a child that God has already created.  
So...what's the purpose of labor?  
A child...

the Revelation of a child.

"Unto us a child is born."

"Unto us a Son is given."

What is the point of all your labor? It's this:  
coming to the end of yourself and receiving this Gift...  
a Savior who is Christ the Lord.

Christ is being born...which means...you are being born.  
Check this out. You are even giving birth  
to Christ,

Mount Carmel

Mount Horeb

Mount Calvary

Jesus is being born.

Israel is an altar, which holds the wood, which holds the Sacrifice...God in Flesh.  
He has made himself the sacrifice on our behalf...He is love. The Fire consumes  
the Sacrifice

Jesus dies and is resurrected  
the first born of all creation.

The world's failure,  
Israel's failure,  
Jerusalem's failure,  
Your failure reveals the grace of God  
Jesus our Lord.

Jesus is being born and Jesus is being born in Elijah; the Word of God in Elijah  
Faith, Hope and Love in Elijah,  
that's the Life of Christ in Elijah.

Did you know that Elijah is only one of two people, in the Old Testament...that  
doesn't go to Hell...that is Sheol. He doesn't descend into Sheol. Elijah skipped  
Hell and went straight to Heaven in a flaming chariot.

"No one comes to the Father except through the Son," says scripture. Elijah met  
the Son at the tree and in the tomb...he died before He died. He died with Christ

and rose with Christ.

Died to His labor and became God's labor  
...born of God!

Christ is being born and so Elijah is also being born. Elijah thought the point of all his labor was to produce a ditch,

a building,  
a city,  
a nation

but the point of all his labor was producing Elijah.

Elijah's cave, just like your tomb, is actually a womb. This world is a womb and you are being born anew.

So, it's like I labor and toil, digging a ditch for God and I turn around and watch him fill it back in...I stack stones and watch Him knock them down.

And I scream at Him,

"What's the point of all this labor?"

And He says,

"Well, Peter, you're the point of all this labor. Peter, look at your arms, look at your shoulders...feel the breath in your lungs and the strength in your back."

"I'm not interested in creating ditches and stacks of stone.

I'm in the business of creating you."

"As you build a stack of stones – I'm building you."

"As you make a sermon, build a home and raise your kids; I'm raising you, building you

... making you,

...in My image."

"I'm giving birth to me in you – Faith, Hope, and Love in you.

...Eternity in you

...Christ in you."

"What's the point of all this labor? I'm giving birth to you."

You see the point of all this labor is not what you produce (everything you produce: houses, bank accounts, cities, nations... it will all pass away). But you still must labor.

The point of your labor is not what you produce...but what God produces in you as you labor.

And you will labor to the end of your life

labor to death

your old self

in order to see your new self

created by Grace through Faith.

You know we're all commanded to labor...to build Jerusalem if you will. But then God destroys Jerusalem and it comes down new from heaven. (The city not made with hands) It's coming down now. Even now...eternity is in us.

So, you look for miracles in Earth, Wind and Fire and the greatest miracle is you...looking...

you look for proof in signs and wonders  
and the greatest wonder is you.

This is the mystery hidden for ages and generations: "Christ in you," writes Paul.

In Galatians, he asks "Why do you turn back to the elemental principles of this world when the Spirit of His Son cries 'Abba Father' in you?" "How I am in labor...until Christ be formed in you," writes Paul.

So, why all the labor? Christ is being born; Elijah is being born; you are being born. And check it out:

You, Elijah, the Church are giving birth to the

Word of God

message of Yahweh

Christ our Lord in this world.

But it's a very strange sort of labor – not arrogant striving, but humble surrender to the miracle of Grace. Only the most arrogant foolish woman would think she could create a baby.

With his labor, Elijah can't create the Word...yet he gives birth to the Word. Elijah speaks the eternal Word of God. And so do you – after you come to the end of yourself; believe God's grace and so speak God's grace; speak Jesus to those around you.

So what's the point of all this labor? Christ is born and all things with Him. He's the 1<sup>st</sup> born of all creation.

Do you see Him?

You've labored all week to the build the altar – I mean with our arrogant striving, our pride – we've arranged the timber.

Do you see the sacrifice?

At high noon, the sky grows dark. The Word of God, Angel of Yahweh lifts his head and cries, "Eli Eli Lema Sabachtani." Bystanders think he's calling for Elijah to come save him, for Elijah was saved – they think he's calling for Elijah but Elijah doesn't save Jesus...Jesus is saving Elijah. The veil in the temple rips, the earth trembles as if in labor, but God isn't in the earthquake; God isn't in the dark wind and rain; God isn't in the fire flashing from the heavens. God is in the man...strapped to the wood for you. "God is Love" and "in this is Love." God is in this.

*Communion:*

So He took the bread and broke it saying, "This is my body given to you. Take and eat and do this in remembrance of me." And in the same way, after supper and having given thanks, He took the cup and He said, "This cup is the New Covenant in my blood; shed for the forgiveness of sins. Drink of it, all of you. Do it in remembrance of me."

And so come to the Table, tear off a piece of bread and dip it in the cup. And take the Life of God; ingest the Life of God and then give birth to the Life of God. It is a strange labor but you see it's the labor that you are called to...Israel of God, the Israel from above, the New Jerusalem.

Come to the Table. Come to the Tree. Surrender your labor...and become God's labor.

Lord Jesus, would you help us to believe. And Lord Jesus, would you cause us to labor. No longer in our own strength but in Faith, Hope and Love. Your strength...and then our labor is no longer in vain. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

*Benediction:*

What's the point of all this labor? This is the point. Well in 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings, Elijah gets taken up in a flaming chariot. We don't hear from again for 900 years.

Then 900 years later on a Mountain in Israel, once again he meets "the Angel" "the Word" He's in flesh (in dust) and he's transfigured and check this out, he wasn't in the fire, but the fire was in him.

As Elijah stands there with Jesus and Moses, this guy named Peter gets so worked up, he starts running around making all kinds of noise. "I'll build this! I'll build that!" God, Almighty, tells him to "shut-up." He booms,  
"Peter – stop – listen – this is my Beloved Son."

You know the story. Peter still had to come to the end of himself. But then the Lord met him and asked him three times – "Do you love me?" And he said, "Then go and feed my sheep." It was on Peter that the Lord built His church.

In Jesus name, may you believe His Love  
...give birth to His Love...  
in everyone around you. Amen.

