

# SERMON DISCUSSION

## QUESTIONS

JULY 19, 2020

### Big Questions: How Do We Deal With All the Noise? - David Lane

#### WARM-UP

1. Pastor Dave opened with the proposition that we are living in a time of 'noise' – we are surrounded by chaos, confusion, uncertainty – and that it can creep into our souls. Can you relate to that right now? If so, how? And how is it affecting you?

#### DIGGING DEEPER

*The fifth big question of this series that Pastor Dave wants us to consider is, "How do we deal with all the noise?" He shares the concern that noise that surrounds us can enter our souls, and from that, we can make bad decisions. But if we can deal with it effectively, we can become beacons of light, with clear purpose, as a calm and gentle spirit, prepared to do as God would have us do. It is the question of listening...the question of discernment... the question of seeking the truth.*

#### The Noise that Surrounds Us – READ: 1 Kings 19:1-12a

2. The prophet Elijah was a spokesperson for God, in the 800 BC era, dealing with the corrupt king of the northern kingdom of Israel, Ahab and his wife Jezebel – he was a horribly corrupt king, in a horribly corrupt kingdom, which was plagued by idolatry, drought, famine, and apostasy – the 'noise' of reckless leadership. And Elijah tried his best to recover the nation for God, but there was much 'noise' around him as well, and he slipped into fear, depression, and loneliness. In verses 9-10, what was God's question to Elijah? How does Elijah recount his situation?
3. In verses 11-12a, what was God showing Elijah in the wind, the earthquake, and the fire? Have you ever experienced the sound or noise of strong winds, earthquakes, or fires? Describe that sound. Has 2020 thus far allowed your soul to 'get noisy'? How so?

#### Still Small Voice – READ: 1 Kings 19:12b-18

4. In verse 12b, after all the preceding noise, what did Elijah hear? What question did God ask him? Is Elijah's answer in a different context now? How so?
5. Read verses 15-18. Pastor Dave suggests that now God has prepared Elijah to understand that perspective has arrived, direction can be given, and God has partnered with him for future efforts. What is the basis of this plan now?
6. Read Psalm 46:1-11. What is the 'noise' that the psalmist is describing? What are the promises and blessings that God provides in verses 1 and 11? How do we access and know these blessings?

## **PRAYER**

In your prayers, seek His 'still small voice' and listen for His words of comfort, direction, and truth. Ask how He wants you to live for Him in the places where you live, work and play – and how you can reduce the 'noise' and be in and listen to His Word.

*Just in case you missed the service, here are the EAC, Facebook, and YouTube links:*

<http://edgewateralliance.org/media/sermon-videos>

<https://www.facebook.com/edgewateralliance/>

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWvQWUv1FD\\_qsUJUZn93kw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWvQWUv1FD_qsUJUZn93kw)