

Our choices belong to us, and we alone are responsible for them.

## Every one of us has issues. Every one of us has struggles.

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But not every one of us looks like we do.

Messy people follow Jesus.

#### A Dramatic Debut

### A Brook and Some Birds

### A Widow's Pantry & Son

### Outnumbered but Invincible

How we look on the outside is rarely a good indicator for how we are on the inside.

Now Ahab told Jezebel everything Elijah had done and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword.

**1 Kings 19:1 NIV** 

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."

**1 Kings 19:2 NIV** 

# Elijah was afraid and ran for his life.

1 Kings 19:3 NIV

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.

**1 Kings 19:3 NIV** 

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 19:4 NIV** 

"I didn't want to wake up. I was having a much better time asleep. And that's really sad. It was almost like a reverse nightmare, like when you wake up from a nightmare you're so relieved. I woke up into a nightmare."

Ned Vizzini

"Sometimes it's heavy...like you're carrying an elephant. Sometimes it's dark...you wonder if you'll ever see light. Sometimes it's bleak...you wonder if you'll make it through. And some days there are no words to describe it."

**Tonia Brassell** 

"Every man has his secret sorrows which the world knows not; and often times we call a man cold when he is only sad."

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Then he lay down under the bush and fell asleep. All at once an angel touched him and said, "Get up and eat."

**1 Kings 19:5 NIV** 

He looked around, and there by his head was some bread baked over hot coals, and a jar of water. He ate and drank and then lay down again.

1 Kings 19:6 NIV

So he got up and ate and drank. Strengthened by that food, he traveled forty days and forty nights until he reached Horeb, the mountain of God.

**1 Kings 19:8 NIV** 

There he went into a cave and spent the night. And the word of the Lord came to him: "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

**1 Kings 19:9 NIV** 

He replied, "I have been very zealous for the Lord God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword.

1 Kings 19:10 NIV

I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too."

1 Kings 19:10 NIV

The Lord said, "Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by."

1 Kings 19:11 NIV

# Our mess is the place where God meets us.

# Your mess is the place where God wants to meet you.