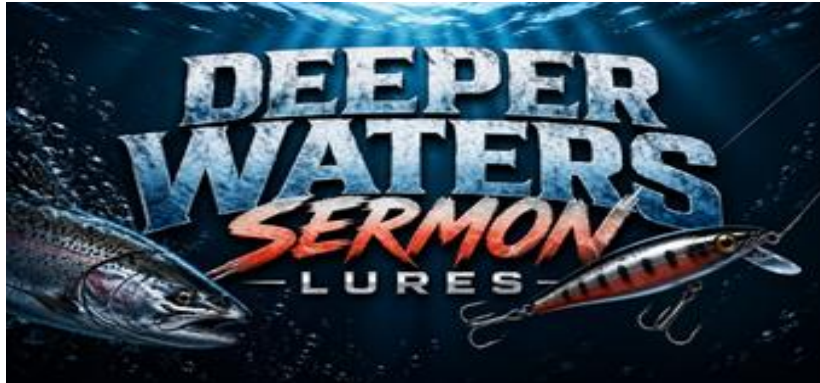




August 9, 2026

KNOW IT!

Elijah's story in 1 Kings 19 reminds us that even when we feel isolated or overwhelmed, God's presence remains steady and near. Like Elijah, we may fear standing apart from the crowd or holding to our convictions when it's unpopular, yet God often speaks not through dramatic signs but through a quiet, sustaining voice. The sermon reflects on times when staying true to one's values can feel lonely, but also how God surrounds us with support we may not immediately see. In a world that pressures us to conform, Jesus assures us that faithfulness—especially in hardship—is blessed. We are called to lift our heads, trust God's strength, and continue the hopeful work of sharing God's kingdom.

READ IT!

- **Psalm 46:1–3, 10** — A reminder that God is our refuge and strength, present even when the world feels chaotic. “Be still, and know that I am God...” echoes Elijah's encounter with God's quiet voice.
- **Romans 12:2** — Paul's call to resist conformity to the world and be transformed by God's renewing Spirit directly parallels the sermon's theme of standing firm in faith despite cultural pressure.
- **Matthew 7:13–14** — Jesus' teaching about the narrow path reinforces the idea that faithful living is often difficult, lonely, and countercultural—but ultimately life-giving.
- ***To Kill a Mockingbird* (Harper Lee)** — Atticus Finch stands almost entirely alone in defending what is morally right, facing misunderstanding, hostility, and isolation—yet remaining steadfast.

- ***The Lord of the Rings* (J.R.R. Tolkien)** — Frodo’s lonely burden of carrying the Ring mirrors Elijah’s sense of being the only one left; the story highlights how quiet faithfulness and unexpected companions sustain us.
- **“The Road Not Taken” (Robert Frost)** — This poem captures the courage and cost of choosing a path that diverges from the crowd, resonating with the sermon’s call to faithful, sometimes solitary conviction.

WATCH IT!

- **To Kill a Mockingbird** – Atticus Finch stands nearly alone in defending what is right, modeling courage, integrity, and compassion in the face of community pressure.
- **The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring** – Frodo carries a burden that often isolates him, yet discovers unexpected companions and quiet strength for the journey.
- **Hacksaw Ridge** – The true story of Desmond Doss, who refuses to compromise his convictions and finds God’s strength to stand firm even when ridiculed and alone.

Standing Firm in a Shifting World – Available on RightNow Media, this video study encourages believers to remain faithful when cultural pressures push toward compromise, reminding us that God equips those who feel alone to stand with courage and conviction.

LIVE IT!

- **Practice listening for God’s “still, small voice.”** Set aside a few minutes each day for quiet prayer or Scripture reflection—no phone, no noise, no multitasking. Ask God to steady your heart, clarify your convictions, and remind you that you are not alone.
- **Take one small stand for your values this week.** Prayerfully identify a situation—at work, at home, online, or in conversation—where you’ve been tempted to stay silent or blend in. Choose one moment to speak gently but clearly from your faith, trusting God to supply courage and grace.
- **Reach out to someone who may feel alone.** Elijah discovered he wasn’t the only faithful one; often we don’t realize who else is quietly struggling. Send a note, make a call, or offer encouragement to someone who may feel isolated. Your presence may be the “still, small voice” God uses in their life.