

# ***I AM - The Greatest Battle of Your Life***

## **Unit 6: God's Dream**

### **Lesson 8:** Worthy Work for My Life

#### **The Cave of Wisdom**

##### **The Cave Opening: The Burning Bush** - Worthy Work

Welcome back to the cave of “Worthless”. “It’s just not worth my time!” “I have better things to do!” “I’d rather play ball!” “Sport is more important to me!” Have you ever said any of these statements? Perhaps they were true, but that depends on what activities you are comparing. Life is full of perspectives, comparisons, viewpoints, and choices. How you decide an issue depends largely on your viewpoint of the situation.

To a scorpion, humans are very tall and dangerous. But to a human, the scorpion is even more feared! The same is true for the value you place on opportunities in your life. To you as an 11 to 13 year old, a job, college, driving, marriage, children, and countless other “future” decisions you must make are too far away to even think about now. There are more immediate things to block your vision of the future and the dream that God is preparing you to act upon.

What is so valuable to you that it is worth your very life? Have you even thought about that question yet? As long as your perspective is only for the fun to be had today, you will not see your life from the perspective God has of you.

**Circle of Fire:** God's dream is worthy of your life.

**Scripture: 1 Kings 19: 9-11; Matthew 10:10-12; 25:31-38**

**1 Kings 19: 9-11 Elijah sees no worth to his life.**

<sup>9</sup> 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?"

<sup>10</sup> He replied, "I have been very zealous for the LORD God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, broken down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too."

<sup>11</sup> The LORD said, "Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by."

**Matthew 10:10-12 Stay with a worthy person.**

<sup>10</sup> Take no bag for the journey, or extra tunic, or sandals or a staff; for the worker is worth his keep. <sup>11</sup> "Whatever town or village you enter, search for some worthy person there and stay at his house until you leave. <sup>12</sup> As you enter the home, give it your greeting.

**Matthew 25:31-38 the Sheep and the Goats**

<sup>31</sup> "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. <sup>32</sup> All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. <sup>33</sup> He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

<sup>34</sup> "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. <sup>35</sup> For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, <sup>36</sup> I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

<sup>37</sup> "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? <sup>38</sup> When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you?

## **Biblical Character: Elijah**

Elijah went to the cave entrance. He thought could avoid all of the dangers outside the cave by hiding in it. But his perspective was entirely wrong. As you have seen during this course, the cave contains much darkness. The things that we fear in the light are even worse in the dark! You must decide what is worth your life.

As Elijah's perspective changed at the cave opening; so did his whole value system. Up until the cave, Elijah had predicted famine in Israel, been fed by Ravens, raised a widow's son, defeated the prophets of Baal at Carmel, prophesied the death of a king, and fled from Jezebel to the darkness of the cave. But God spoke to Elijah and told him what was truly worthy of his life: the presence of God.

In our scripture we see that Elijah's value system had gone astray. In 1 Kings 19:10, Elijah basically says: "I have given all that I have for you, Lord, and it has not been worth it! Nothing in Israel has changed!" First, this is a distortion of truth, for God did everything, not Elijah who was only God's tool. Secondly, when you give your all to something, be sure that it is the dream of God for you. Otherwise you may be disappointed when the outcome is not what you expected. Thirdly, when you give your all to God, the outcome is in His hands, not your hands. It will always be "worth" your time and you may never know the final outcome.

Elijah, like us sometimes, needed to be reminded by God that his perspective was all wrong. "Go out and stand on

the mountain in the presence of the Lord”. Pay attention here: God did not come into the cave to meet Elijah. Of course God could have done this, but the perspective of the cave was wrong. Come out into the light of God’s presence. Change your perspective of life. Wake up, God called to Elijah! Elijah did as he was instructed by God.

And we know the rest of the story. Elijah served the Lord. God took Elijah to heaven in a whirlwind. He did not die! And he appeared with Moses in the transfiguration of Jesus! Now, Elijah, aren’t you glad that you came out of the cave! Are you ready to hear God’s “Wake-up call” to you and come out of the cave?

Act the part of Elijah on your knees at the entrance to the cave. Tell your feelings of a wasted life. No one listens to you. You may as well die! You are the only one left who worships God.

Show video “Elijah – Part 3”. Explain that Elijah thought he was alone and his life had been a waste of time. But God knew differently; had saved 7,000 people from Baal; and had more work for Elijah to do. The video is in Appendix 2 for this lesson. This is a time for rejoicing as we move out of the cave and into the light of God’s Dream for each of us.

**Modern Character(s):** Franklin Graham – Show the video of Franklin Graham giving his testimony at a motorcycle rally. Then show the results of Dr. Graham’s decision to follow Christ: Samaritan’s Purse Overview. The videos are in Appendix 2 or the below links:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jn\\_vpbbpFrY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jn_vpbbpFrY)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1iF2qkKo5BA>

Show the video of Maytown, Ky mission trip, by First Capital Christian Church. Mission trips are for teens as well as youth and adults. There are people in the world that need Jesus as well as life help. But we must “come out of the cave and into the presence of God” to be a participant. Are you ready to come out of your cave? The videos are in Appendix 2 or the link below:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YHksgV6W5LU>

Show the video: “End of the Spear”. These four missionaries were willing to give all for the Dream of God.

In the last lesson, you learned that what you desire with all of your heart will increase, even if it is bad for you! Elijah desired with all of his heart to change the people of Israel back to the followers of God. But his perspective was wrong. He could not do the changing. Only God could change the people of Israel. Elijah was to be satisfied with being the instrument of God to accomplish God’s dream for Israel. We must have the right perspective toward the worthiness of God’s dream for us. Whatever he has planned

for your life is worthy of the desire of your heart and your best efforts.

Jesus told his disciples to find a worthy person to stay with during their missions. You too should seek worthy friends for your life. God will place them in your pathway. This is what Jesus tells you in Matthew 10:10-12. Know what to look for in their character to be “worthy” of your time. Beware that there are both sheep and goats in this world. You should seek to be with the sheep.

***The Tribe:*** You are more valuable to God than gold.

**Craft:** To your “Stone Face” dream tile, add a diamond shape and the symbol for gold, AU. You are more precious than diamonds or gold to God. Take the tile home and place it on your bathroom sink, where you will see it first thing each day. This will remind you that the choices you make today are to be based on God’s Dream for your life.

### **Recreation Activity:** “Worth More or Less”

See Appendix 6 Recreation for the game “Worth More or Less”. At the completion of the game ask the members:

“What are you worth to God?”

“What is God worth to you?”

The value placed on something usually depends on the viewpoint. What’s worth much to you may have little value to someone else. Try to see what you value from the point of view of God’s Dream for you.