Sermon: **“I am the only one left – and they are trying to kill me!”** (1 Kings 19.10b, 14b)

Apollo 13: Houston, we have a problem! (actually it was: We’ve *had* a problem)

We all have problems – that’s life. Some are fairly trivial and temporary; others major and long-lasting.

Some problems affect only a part of life (as when a washing machine breaks), others affect the whole of life.

Depending on our mood we might shrug them off, or let them get on top.

Elijah’s problem was major, affecting his whole life, and it got on top of him. He said he had served only God, that Israel had left God, that he was alone, and that there was a death threat on him). TEXT.

What was God’s answer? God did not address Elijah’s problem as such, but gave him a task to focus on.

Too easily we think life is a problem that needs a solution, and that only we can supply it.

2 dangers:

[1] we think it all depends upon us (but where is God, for heaven’s sake?)

[2] we think our cleverness will sort everything out – Churches have evangelism programs, mission, prayer vigils, which may be of use, but are often undertaken because they have lost faith in God.

Instead, take it to the Lord in prayer – this is not to say we need do nothing, or have no responsibility.

TEXT. God is not uncaring about our perceived problems, but helps us put them in perspective. Eg Elijah.

This helps in three ways:

[1] Sometimes *doing something* is enough to get us out of depression. Physical activity helps depression.

[2] We begin to see the bigger picture which only God can see. Seeing Invercargill from the air.

[3] We understand that our part is important but we are not alone. That is why we belong to a Church!

Saul/Paul – prayed (Acts 9.11), “Jesus, whom you persecute” (Acts 9.5-6), chosen for task (Acts 9.15).