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2 Disasters

- Ever been in a disaster? (Sudden event that causes great damage.)
- This year it seems we have already had several disasters.
- Earthquakes (Haiti, Chile, Baja California, China, and one in central California yesterday)
- Volcano (Iceland)
- Tornado (Mississippi)
- Oil Spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

3 The Black Swan

- According to author, Nassim Nicholas Taleb, the worst disasters are the unusual, “who’d-a-thunk-it” kinds of disasters called “black swans.”
- He defines them as “low-probability, high-impact events” that hardly anyone would have anticipated.
- Last year’s financial meltdown was a economic “black swan.”
- But there are many other scenarios as well.

4 Black Swan Examples

- Traveling in a Third World country and get caught in the crossfire of a coup attempt.
- Hiking in the back country and are suddenly surrounded by walls of flame from a lightning-struck wildfire.
- WWI, Computer, and the Attack on 9-11.
- A perfectly happy goose flying on a beautiful spring day and gets hit by a golf ball.

5 Ten principles for a Black Swan-proof world!

- What is fragile should break early while it is still small.
- No socialization of losses and privatization of gains.
- People who were driving a school bus blindfolded (and crashed it) should never be given a new bus.
- Do not let someone making an “incentive” bonus manage a nuclear plant – or your financial risks.
- Counter-balance complexity with simplicity

- Do not give children sticks of dynamite, even if they come with a warning.
- Only Ponzi schemes should depend on confidence.
- Do not give an addict more drugs if he has withdrawal pains.
- Citizens should not depend on financial assets or fallible “expert” advice for their retirement.
- Make an omelette with the broken eggs.

6 National Geographic

- If kidnapped in a foreign country, cooperate as most kidnapped victims are eventually freed.
- If you’re on the beach and see the waters recede unusually fast, run for higher ground.
- Power grid crashes? Make sure you have a survival kit.
- Caught in a wildfire? Get rid of synthetic clothing and head for the nearest clearing or body of water.

7 Common Sense

- If your GPS goes out what should you do?
- Often in an emergency the second thing that goes wrong is that we lose our common sense.
- Best advice is to calm down and work the problem out step by step.
- Thinking positive can be a life saver, while negative thoughts of hopelessness can be a killer.

8 Elijah & the Killer Queen

- Right after Elijah kicks tail in the contest with the pagan prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel (1 Kings), he has a Black Swan experience.
- Jezebel stands up to him and threatens to kill him.
- Instead of confronting the queen with the help of God, Elijah panics and runs for his life.
- Then goes into deep depression.

9 Survival Tip #1

- Do the next right thing.
 - According to John Leach, professor at Lancaster University, simple, direct action is the key to regaining normal psychological functioning in a crisis.

- Rather than fast-forwarding our thoughts to possible negative conclusions, break down the problem into small manageable parts.

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11 Survival Tip #2

- Develop and use a phrase that you can live by before you need it.
 - Steve Callahan when adrift in a raft for 76 days, just kept repeating the word survival.
 - Yossi Ghinsberg, a hiker who was lost in the Bolivian jungle for three weeks, repeatedly used the phrase man of action to motivate himself.

12 Be Positive

- A positive message can keep your spirits up and your mind focused on doing the right thing.
- By contrast, Elijah focused on death, “It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life for I am no better than my ancestors.”
- What was God’s answer?
“Elijah what are you doing here?”

13 Survival Tip #3

- Surrender, but don’t give up.
 - According to Ahmed Abdullah, an Iraqi journalist, the fear of death is a paralyzing force that can hinder our ability to survive.
 - Once we reckon ourselves dead, fear has no hold on us.
 - Surrendering to the thought of our ultimate outcome, helps us from being paralyzed by fear, so then we can really live.

14 Elijah Restored

- Elijah wanted to sit under the broom tree and die, but God didn't allow him to quit.
 - An angel feeds him.
 - God speaks to him in a cave and challenges him to push through his fear and continue on with the business of being His prophet.

15 The Lesson

- When we're ready to give up, God is still with us . . .
 - feeding us, prompting us, and challenging us.
- It is only when we surrender to God's call that we can . . .
 - move past our fear and despair and get on with the business of living boldly into the future.

16 Elijah Survives to Serve

- One of the ways to get past our fears is by helping others.
- Wedding dress gift from Kentucky!
- Study on Nazi death camps.
- Doctors & Nurses survival rates.
- God lifts Elijah out of his state self-indulgent victimhood by commanding him to go and anoint several new kings, and train his replacement.

17 Keys to Survival

- Don't Panic. Manage the problem into small steps.
- Be positive and repeat it to yourself.
- Be free to live, don't fear what you can't change.
- Overcome evil by doing good.

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