

## 1 Kings 17

“Elijah: The Man of Highs and Lows - To Be Without, Nevermore”

AS YOU SETTLE IN PLEASE TURN TO 1 Kings 17...

**LET'S PRAY -**

GOING THROUGH A STUDY OF THE LIFE OF ELIJAH : **“Elijah: The Man of Highs and Lows”**

**INTRO -**

1 KINGS 17-19 HIGHLIGHTS THE LIFE OF ELIJAH

- Elijah performed 7 miracles...
  - Caused the Rain to stop and start again
    - We also see Elijah in the New Testament (Matthew 17)...
    - He actually never dies...
      - 2 Kings 2:11 NLT

NOTE TAKERS I'VE TITLED TONIGHT MESSAGE: **“To be Without, Nevermore”**

**(READ V 1 NKJV)**

SOME CONTEXT HERE: (Chap 16 Verse 30-31)

- Baal was the god of Prosperity and was thought to controlled the weather.
  - In an agrarian culture rain it's the hottest commodity
    - This is God directly challenging the false worship system

**(READ V 2-6 NKJV)**

**IDEA 1 - God's Wilderness UberEats**

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### GOD PROVIDED FOR ELIJAH'S NEEDS IN A VERY UNIQUE WAY

- Elijah radically obeyed and God Radically provided
  - *WHAT DO YOU ASSOCIATE WITH RAVENS?*
    - Edgar Allen Poe poem called ‘The Raven’
      - “And my soul from out that shadow that lies floating on the floor / Shall be lifted—nevermore!” - Poe
        - The raven becomes a symbol of hopelessness, despair, and emotional torment
          - Even biblically speaking these birds are considered to be “Unclean animals”
            - God can use the unclean things to be a catalyst for blessing
    - God can use the very same situations in your life that can make you hopeless as a mechanism for his Grace

### NOW GOD PROVIDED FOR ELIJAH IN WAYS ELIJAH NEVER SUSPECTED

- Elijah never planned on being fed out of the mouths of Ravens
  - Sometimes we kick against God's plan because they are different. Maybe even uncomfortable.
    - But It was God’s will to use these ravens and a mechanism of his provision and Grace
- [ILLUSTRATION - Young German Boy and Widowed Mother]

### ONE THING I DON'T WANT TO SKIM OVER...

- If Elijah had never obeyed the Lord and gone to this brook he would have missed out on God’s supernatural provision
  - God used the time in the wilderness to prepare Elijah
    - Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness preparation
    - Moses spent 40 years wandered the wilderness
    - Paul did not start his ministry for 11 years
    - David spent a decade living in caves after he was anointed
  - God would often take us to a desert place where he does that preparation
    - If you want to be used by God, The desert time is not optional, its prescribed

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- Without the Cherith Brook there would be no Mount Carmel

(READ V 7 NKJV)

THIS TAUGHT ELIJAH AN IMPORTANT LESSON

- God has new provisions for you everyday
  - You can't depend on yesterday's Manna for today

(READ V 8-16 NKJV)

### *IDEA 2 - Sustained by Radical Obedience*

AS SOON AS THE LORD TOLD HIM TO GO ELIJAH WENT

- God is directing Elijah one step at a time, he doesn't give him a blueprint, but one instruction after another.
  - So he leaves Cherith and comes to Zarephath
    - Cherith translates to - Cut away (whittling)
    - Zarephath translates to - A crucible (To burn/purify gold)
      - The process of what God is doing In Elijah's life if displayed by the places he finds himself in

GOD MOVING ELIJAH THROUGH THESE PLACES AND MADE HIM STRONGER

- [ILLUSTRATION - Fiddle Leaf Fig Tree]
  - That movement is what provides health to the plant
    - God will use these circumstances in our life's to strengthen us

NOW HE COMES TO THIS CITY TO MEET A WIDOW

- This was a 75 mile trip into Gentile territory, the home town of Jezebel
- This was the center of Baal worship in the area yet God sent Elijah there
  - Luke 4:25-26 NKJV
    - There are no coincidences with God, he set up these divine appointments for his purposes and his glory

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### NOW THIS WOMAN WAS A POOR WOMAN

- She was getting ready to eat her very last meal with her son
  - At first It seems selfish for Elijah to ask the woman to make him food
    - But there is a biblical principle here:
      - It's honoring the Lord with your first fruits.
      - Prov 3:9-10 NKJV
    - Because of her faith God didn't allow her to run out of flour or oil until this drought was over
      - Capture this: If she would have lived by sight and not faith she would have died
- Jesus said man shall not live on bread alone but by the word of God
  - She lived her life based on the promise God had given her and not based on her current circumstances
    - Faith requires us to take the step first and then to see the results, if we see the results first it's not faith
      - Heb 11:6 NKJV “Without faith it's impossible to please God”

### IT SEEMED AS IF THE MIRACLE WAS A NEW DAILY SUPPLY

- She wasn't instantly given a 3 ½ year supply of oil and flour
  - But each day just like the ravens, God had filled the oil and flour jar.
    - Jesus taught us to pray, “Give us our daily bread”
      - Hudson Taylor “God's work, done God's way, will never lack God's supply”

(READ V 17-24 NKJV)

### *IDEA 3 - Never Before Seen Faith*

### THIS WAS THE FIRST RESURRECTION EVER RECORDED

- Elijah honestly might not have thought that God could bring someone back to life
  - He didn't have the writings of the new testament, he couldn't just refer back to what Jesus did for Lazarus
    - But because he showed his radical faith God was with him and raised this boy to live.

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- The message God is showing to Elijah is that God can revive the life back into this young boy and so too can he bring revival back into the nation of Israel

IN THIS STUDY WE SAW GOD PROVIDING IN 3 MIRACULOUS WAYS

- 1) The Ravens providing Elijah food
- 2) The widows Flour and Oil not running out
- 3) The boy being raised back to life.

THESE ARE INCREDIBLE MIRACLES HOWEVER THEY ARE ALL TEMPORARY

- Eventually the brook dried up and the ravens stopped coming
- Eventually the flour ran out after the drought was over
- And eventually this boy would die again in years to come
- - This is all because God Doesn't want us to depend on the miracle, but the miracle worker instead

WHAT I LOVE IS THAT THERE IS NO FORMULA WITH GOD

- Elijah laid his whole boy on top of the boy 3 times before he came back to life.
  - Throughout the gospels, not one healing looked the same to another.
    - Jesus healed some people just by this words
    - Others he touched
    - Some he spat on or smeared mud into their eyes
    - And others he commanded them to do something
- Even with the Ravens, God didn't have to feed Elijah with those Ravens
  - He could have caused the food to rain from heaven
  - Or he could have sent an angel to deliver the food like in chapter 19
    - But God does not operate in a formula, It has to be fresh faith

AND ELIJAH SHOWED A PERSISTENCE IN PRAYER

- Imagine if he would have prayed twice and given up declaring the boy to be dead
  - But there is something to be said about our persistence in our prayers

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■ Matthew 7:7 NLT

**CALL THE WORSHIP TEAM UP**

**APPLICATION**

WE CAN EASILY READ WORDS ON A PAGE AND SAY IT DOESN'T  
REALLY MATTER FOR ME BECAUSE I'M NO ELIJAH

ELIJAH WAS REFERENCED IN THE BOOK OF JAMES

● James 5:17-18 NLT

**PRAY**

IF THIS MESSAGE HAS SPOKEN TO YOU...