

Courage in a Corrupt Culture II – Developing an Elijah Anointing

Summary of the Message

In 1 Kings 17, Elijah emerges as a prophet of courage in the midst of a corrupt culture dominated by King Ahab and Queen Jezebel. His first act, proclaiming a drought, was bold, but God immediately took him into a season of preparation. For 3.5 years, Elijah learned submission, separation, service, and sustenance. God developed in him the courage, character, and dependence required to confront evil and stand for truth.

Elijah's journey shows us that developing an "Elijah anointing" requires:

1. **A life of submission** — speaking God's Word and obeying it.
2. **A life of separation** — embracing isolation as God's protection and preparation.
3. **A life of service** — faithfulness in the mundane, serving others even when unseen.
4. **A life sustained by God** — learning to trust God's provision and power in every circumstance.

True courage is not an instant thing. We know it is forged in hidden obedience, everyday faithfulness, and radical trust in God.

Key Scriptures

- 1 Kings 17:1–7
- 1 Kings 17:8–16
- 1 Kings 17:19–22
- Philippians 4:19

Study Questions

1. Why was Elijah's proclamation of a drought such a courageous act?
2. What does Elijah's obedience at the brook Cherith teach us about developing spiritual authority?
3. How can isolation serve as preparation rather than punishment in a believer's life?
4. What does Elijah's ministry to the widow and her son reveal about the importance of faithfulness in the mundane?
5. How do Elijah's experiences show us the difference between resource and source?

Family Spotlight

Object Lesson: “The Empty Cup”

- Take a clear cup and pour water into it. Tell kids this is like the brook that Elijah drank from. Over time, pour the water out until the cup is empty. Ask: “What do we do when our cup is empty?”
- Then take another jug or pitcher (representing God as the Source) and refill the cup. Explain: “Elijah learned that the brook wasn’t his real source. God was! Even when one blessing dries up, God can always provide another.”
- Activity: As a family, make a “God’s Provision List” where you write down ways God has provided in big and small ways. Each time something dries up (like a job, a friend moving away, etc.), talk about how God can still provide something new.

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Study Questions with Answers

1. Why was Elijah's proclamation of a drought such a courageous act?

Speaking against the king's policies risked Elijah's life and made him unpopular. Yet he chose obedience to God over cultural acceptance, showing that true courage values divine approval over man's applause.

2. What does Elijah's obedience at the brook Cherith teach us about developing spiritual authority?

Authority in speaking God's Word is rooted in **living under** God's Word. Elijah's precise obedience revealed that impact in God's kingdom is directly tied to obedience.

Touch on God's Specific instructions and Elijah's specific obedience.

3. How can isolation serve as preparation rather than punishment in a believer's life?

Elijah's time "cut off" at Cherith was both protection from Ahab and insulation for his calling. God uses seasons of hiddenness to deepen our dependence, strengthen our faith, and prepare us for future influence.

4. What does Elijah's ministry to the widow and her son reveal about the importance of faithfulness in the mundane?

Before Mount Carmel, Elijah served quietly in obscurity. Ministering to one widow and one child proved his character and positioned him to see God's miraculous power. True character is revealed in small acts of faithfulness.

5. How do Elijah's experiences show us the difference between resource and source?

The brook dried up, but God remained Elijah's provider. Resources change, but God is constant. Believers must not mistake temporary provision for the ultimate Source—God Himself.

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