

Elijah and the Widow
(1 Kings 17:8-24)

- I. At this point in their history, Israel was overrun with Baalism/paganism which had been introduced by Jezebel and Ahab. **1KI 16:30-33; 18:19.**
 - A. Elijah dared to announce that an age-old curse was about to become effective. **DEU 11:16-17; 1KI 17:1.**
 - B. Israel would be without dew or rain for three and a half years. **LUK 4:25.**
 - C. God then told Elijah to leave and hide himself. **1KI 17:2-3 c/w ACT 22:18; MAT 2:13.**
 - D. God sustained him while in hiding by unusual means. **1KI 17:4-7 c/w LEV 11:15.**
 - 1. Though unclean animals, Jesus said, "Consider the ravens..." (**LUK 12:24**).
 - 2. Though we are not to love mammon, there are times when we need to make friends with it. **MAT 6:24 c/w LUK 16:9.**
- II. Elijah was then commanded to seek room and board with a widow. **vs. 8-9.**
- III. Elijah *moved* at the word of God. **v. 10.**
 - A. Such motion is the mark of true faith. **ROM 10:17 c/w HEB 11:8.**
 - 1. Faith should govern emotion. **PRO 23:19.**
 - 2. Faith should govern promotion. **PRO 4:8.**
 - B. Of all the places for Elijah to have found refuge, God chose a destitute widow in Jezebel's homeland. **1KI 16:31.**
 - C. A man of faith will hearken to the word of God in defiance of human reasoning. **PRO 3:5-6.**
 - D. When God instructed Elijah to remove to a city of the Gentiles, he went, like Peter, "...doubting nothing..." (**ACT 10:20-21**).
 - 1. Elijah and Peter were both sent to minister to Gentiles.
 - 2. Elijah brought hope of temporal salvation (**vs. 13-14**) and Peter brought hope of eternal life. Godly ministry gives hope for the present and eternity.
 - 3. It is noteworthy that both of these ministers to the Gentiles should meet on the Mount of Transfiguration. **MAT 17:1-3.**
 - E. God is pleased to find unusual places of security and provision for the faithful when necessary. **JER 29:7; REV 12:6.**
 - F. The word of God had been scorned in Israel, so God sent it unto a Gentile who gladly received it. **ACT 13:46-48; 28:28.**
 - 1. She wasn't seeking God. God sought her. **ISA 65:1.**
 - 2. Israel's loss was the Gentile widow's gain. **ROM 11:11-12.**
 - 3. This widow of Zidon reckoned this prophet's word from God as valid and acted accordingly. **v. 15 c/w 1TH 2:13.**
 - 4. Zidon later stood as a rebuke to the hardnecked Jews. **MAT 11:21.**
 - 5. Christ found in Sidon a Gentile woman of great faith. **MAT 15:21-28.**
 - 6. Christ made specific reference to this event which demonstrated God's willingness to abandon unbelieving Israel to show favor to Gentiles. **LUK 4:24-26.**
 - 7. Israel's loss is a warning to us against unbelief. **ROM 11:15-23.**
 - G. Elijah was sent to Zidon to be sustained, but a good servant of God knows that service is a two-way street. **MAT 20:28.**
 - 1. Even though the widow was destitute herself, she willingly gave the firstfruits unto the Lord. **vs. 13-15; 2CO 8:2.**

2. Her pitiful supply was enough when God blessed it. **MAT 14:15-20; 2CO 9:9-11.**
3. In the midst of famine, God forgets not those that fear him. **PSA 37:18-19, 25.**
4. Elijah's contention with Israel was about religion. He here exercised pure religion. **JAM 1:27.**
5. Elijah promised continual supply "...until the day that the LORD sendeth rain upon the earth" (**1KI 17:14**).
 - a. Our patient waiting for the Second Coming is likened to a husbandman waiting for rain. **JAM 5:7-8.**
 - b. With the joy of Christ and the Holy Ghost, we too may have a continual feast until the Rain comes. **ROM 5:11; 14:17 c/w PRO 15:15.**

- IV. While Elijah ministered to the widow (and vice-versa), her son died. She promptly blamed this on Elijah. **vs.17-18.**
- A. Men of God tend to be made the *whipping boy* for church members who undergo affliction or tribulation. **EXO 14:11-13; 1SAM 30:6.**
 - B. Pastors must be aware of this tendency and not be provoked to sin themselves. **PSA 106:32-33 c/w 2TI 2:3.**
 - C. The child's death was an opportunity for God's glory. **vs. 19-24 c/w JOH 9:3; 11:4, 45.**
 1. The mercy she was shown was a deliverance but there is a better one. **HEB 11:35.**
 2. Sometimes we NEED to be in heaviness. **1PE 1:6.**
 3. The way we process this life with its griefs determines our peace and manifests our inward nature and true hope. **PRO 24:10 c/w ROM 5:3-5.**