

Lesson #3

MMBC

The Wilderness Experience of Elijah

Read 1 Kings 17:1-6

God provides in the Wilderness.

In our focal passage a passage found in I Kings 17: 1-6, a severe drought had come across the land of Israel as a fulfillment of a prophecy given by Elijah (vs 1). Since the entire nation was going through the drought, with the accompanying famine, one may ask, what about Elijah? Would he survive?

God directed Elijah to leave Samaria and return eastward and go dwell by a brook called Cherith.

Desperate Circumstances

Listen to the “b” portion of verse 4. “I have commanded the ravens to feed thee **there!**”

Where is your **there**?

What were Elijah’s basic needs?

1. Where would he find his water supply?
2. What would he eat?
3. How would the bread and meat be delivered?

Elijah had only 3 real needs at this time; food and water, and a Word from the Lord. That's exactly what he got! God didn't send him money, clothes, or anything else. He had what he needed.

God knows exactly what we **need** and He is more than able to provide what we **need**. Didn't He provide a water fountain from a rock (Exodus 17: 5-7) and food from the skies (Exodus 16) to the Israelites in the wilderness? Do you believe He will supply your needs?

Write Phil 4:19 here.

Obviously, God was nourishing the prophet physically and spiritually. How was he nourishing him spiritually? List at least three lessons you think he was learning:

We do not know how long he stayed at the brook. We do know the drought lasted approximately 3 ½ years.

Eventually, the brook (that place of provision) dried up and the Lord directs Elijah to go to Zarephath. Read 17:9.

Where did God direct him?

Who would provide for him?

Listen to the “a” portion of verse 9. “Arise, get thee to Zarephath, which belongeth to Zidon, and dwell **there...**

How important is it to be where God would have for us to be?

Look at verse 2 and verse 8. Do you see any similarities? We must be sure we are being led by the Lord and most importantly, be sure He is speaking. God provides when we obey His Word.

Discussion: The means- ravens by the brook and a widow in Zarephath

What do both have in common in this context?

Ravens by nature are scavenger birds. They search and hold on to food. They are not known for sharing food! This widow was preparing for her death. She and her son were down to their last. But, God works in unexpected ways His wonders to perform. He uses the **least likely methods** to provide for His children. Therefore, never limit or pre-suppose how He can work in your situation or challenge.

In what unusual way, has the Lord provided for you?

First Kings Chapter 18 is between chapters 17 and 19. Interestingly, in chapter 18, Elijah calls down fire on Mt Carmel. The prophet is on fire for God. The prophet is courageous! However, in the very next chapter the situation changes. Read 1 Kings 19:3-18

- What happened between chapter 18 and 19?
- Why did Elijah give heed to Jezebel when He had given heed to God in the past?
- What happens when we get distracted?
- What was her threat?

How is it that a courageous prophet moved from being courageous to being fearful, fearful, scared, depressed, exhausted, wanting to die?

What shattered Elijah’s focus? What shattered your focus?

Notice this...in verse 2. Jezebel sent a messenger to tell Elijah what she was going to do to him. Notice this...he heard what she was going to do. Elijah responded to what he heard....a threat...

How do we keep from losing our focus when we are threatened by what we hear?

Compare and contrast Elijah’s moment of fear to Peter’s dilemma in Matthew 14:30.

Elijah was frightened by what he _____ whereas Peter was frightened by what he _____.

How we see a situation can empower us or limit us?

Read 19:6. Do you think the baked bread and cruse of water convinced him of God’s provision in the wilderness?

What do you think God meant by the question: What are you doing here Elijah? (1 Kings 19:9)

What were God’s instructions?

What do you think God wanted Elijah to learn from this ordeal?