

“The Supplier of Your Needs”

Text: **1 Kings 17:1-24**

I. Choices and Consequences

1. Consequence of Israel's sin - worship of Baal
 - i. God's judgment of Israel through Elijah
 - *“There shall not be dew nor rain these years”* - v. 3
2. Elijah's predicament! v. 2-4
 - i. Elijah was also affected by the judgment.
 - The great tragedy of sin ... it doesn't only affect you; it affects others also, as is clearly seen today through afflictions like AIDS.
 - We are not an island, but a community of people and whatever consequences brought on by one impacts others too.
 - ii. The positive news is that God would take care of His servant for making the right choices personally.
3. Consequence of Elijah's obedience.
 - i. God's provision
 - God had a stream to meet Elijah's thirst and ravens to feed him twice a day!
 - For those who walk in obedience, God always has a way to supply their needs.
 - ii. Elijah was obedient, trusting God's Word and God took care of his needs.
 - Obedience always results in blessing.
 - Disobedience would bring disaster!

II. God's principle of obedience and blessing is universal

1. God sends Elijah to Zarephath to bless a widow who would obey God's Word.
 - i. God would use this woman to provide for Elijah's needs and meet this woman's needs through her obedience to God's Word through Elijah as God's prophet!

- ii. Two people walking in obedience to God's Word would both be blessed by each other... a picture of how wonderful it can be when brethren are united in obedience to God's Word together... that church will be blessed -- and their needs met!
2. The consequence of the widow's obedience
 - i. God miraculous providence
 - The oil would flow and the flour would not be used up until the drought ended!
 - ii. Obedience by one brings blessings to others as well!

III. Calamity that challenges faith – v. 17-24

1. The death of the widow's only son
 - i. A new challenge to her faith.
 - ii. Elijah's faith was also challenged - v. 20b
2. God didn't ignore the faithfulness of the woman or the earnest cry of His prophet!
 - i. The boy was raised to life again!
 - ii. In the life of a couple of obedient people, God demonstrated His faithfulness to meet their needs
 - iii. No matter what others may choose... you can choose wisely... stick with God, obey His Word and enjoy His covenantal blessings!

IV. Conclusion

1. Walking by faith isn't easy, but it will be rewarding!
2. Even if everyone around you ignores God's Word, as an individual you can lay claim to God's best by choosing His ways and His Word.
3. God always has His eyes opened to those who are obedient!
4. "Seek first the kingdom of God" - Matthew 6:33
5. "My God shall supply all your need....." - Philippians 4:19