

‘A WEALTHY FAITH’

1 Kings 17:8-16

THE TRUSTING: 1 Kings 17:8-9

“The word of the LORD came to him (Elijah): ‘Go at once to Zarephath of Sidon and stay there. I have commanded a widow in that place to supply you with food.’”

1. Elijah is in a hopeless situation!
2. He is running from Jezebel who wants him dead and God sends him to Phoenicia which is Jezebel’s hometown.
3. God is going to sustain Elijah by using a woman who is also in a hopeless situation.
4. The widow is going to have to **exercise total faith** in what God is going to ask her to do with what little she does have.
5. The mighty prophet, Elijah, is going to have to exercise total faith with what he doesn’t have.

THE TESTING: 1 Kings 17:10-15

“So he went to Zarephath. When he came to the town gate, a widow was there gathering sticks. He called to her and asked, ‘Would you bring me a little water in a jar so I may have a drink?’ As she was going to get it, he called, ‘And bring me, please, a piece of bread.’ ‘As surely as the LORD your God lives,’ she replied, ‘I don’t have any bread – only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. I am gathering a few sticks to take home and make a meal for myself and my son, that we may eat it – and die.’ Elijah said to her, ‘Don’t be afraid. Go home and do as you have said. But first make a small cake of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me, and then make something for yourself and your son. For this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the LORD gives rain on the land.’ She went and did as Elijah had told her.”

1. Would she give her last meal (sacrificing also her son) on the faith of Elijah’s word?
2. In time of suffering, what is real to you?
3. With a “wealthy faith” that trusts God, the greatest moments in your life will be the “testing” times of trial and heartache.

THE TIMING: 1 Kings 17: 15b-16

“So there was food every day for Elijah and the woman and her family, for the jar of flour was not used up and jug of oil didn’t run dry in keeping with the Word of the Lord spoken by Elijah.”

1. Faith has no time limits and waits for God’s perfect timing.
2. The word “**everyday**” means **one day at a time**, which teaches that there was no more than a day’s supply every day.
3. Her obedient response demonstrated her faith in the word of the Lord. She had a ‘wealthy faith’.

THE TRIUMPH: 1 Kings 17:16

“For the jar of flour was not used up and the jug of oil did not run dry, in keeping with the word of the LORD spoken by Elijah.”

1. The widow had food as God had promised until the drought ended.
2. Only the true God could provide flour and oil in a drought!

Note:

A personal relationship with God is established by faith and a continuous fellowship with God is maintained by faith.

'GOING UP' Matt. 5:1-2

"Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them, saying:" (Matt. 5:1-2, NIV)

THE CHOICE OF CLIMBING

1. God **never** demands. He **always** invites.
2. We have the choice of whether we are going to choose to follow or not to follow Him.
3. Are we going to climb higher or not climb higher?
4. Jesus invites all to accept the **Message of Salvation**.
5. Jesus invites all who accept his first invitation to also accept His second invitation, the **Maturity of Salvation**.
6. Choose to become the **'Climbing Companions'** of Jesus!

THE COST OF CLIMBING

1. We have to give up, to go up. (Law of Sacrifice)
2. We have to give up to stay up!

THE COMMITMENT OF CLIMBING

1. Many Christians are good at *'words'* but not *'works'*!
2. Many Christians choose *'comfort'* over *'climbing'*!

THE CLIMBERS OF CLIMBING

1. The goal should be to allow nothing to come between ourselves and our relationship with God.
2. Learn and memorize Matthew 5:3-12 as a guidepost to a higher level of relationship with God.

CELEBRATION OF CLIMBING

1. There is always great joy when you achieve your goal of reaching the top.
2. Psalm 16:11, *"Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore."* (KJV)

Question: Will we go up or hang around the bottom and miss all He wants to share?

I want to be one of Jesus' **Climbing Companions!**