

Sunday 10th February 2013

Standing in the Gap: Part 2 Elijah the Tishbite

Quote: Oswald Chambers wrote: *Like a meteor he flashed across the inky blackness of Israel's spiritual night.*

How at the end of Chapter 16 of 1 Kings, Elijah comes bursting in as a messenger of God to put a stop to an evil generation.

Elijah shared Gods heart: **Elijah:** The Lord is my God.

It was who he was that put him forward for this task and it is who we are now in Christ that will do the same for us. It was his calling, it is our calling.

What should be noted here is that there is no word from God.

God does not speak until after Elijah has put himself forward.

So often we read: God spoke to, or God told.

God noticed a man who was willing to speak up and against what was wrong and thought, I could use him, I better get him ready.

Elijah didn't need to be told. So often we wait to be asked to do something.

Psalm 110:3 "Your people shall be willing in the day of your power"

Willing: Spontaneous volunteer

Can you hear the voice of Jesus responding to his Fathers heart knowing there was something that needed doing . " **I'll go Dad**"

In answer to God heart:

Isaiah 6:8 Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying Whom shall I send and who will go for us, Then I said, here am I ; send me.

God uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things. He could have raised up a whole host of people to destroy Ahab and Jezebel but he chose one man, he chooses you.

Whatever your role in life, you are never unimportant when it comes to standing alone for the truth.

Elijah's Journey.

1 Kings 17:1-7 Read

Elijah sent to Boot Camp.(Army Training Camp)

What springs to mind when we think of Boot camp: Preparation.

Raw recruits, a mixed bunch of men or women from different backgrounds, (morals, understanding) being trained. Disciplined, routine, trained to trust and obey. To take something out and to put something back in that is far better.

Look around today and we see a mixed bunch of people thrown together called the church. A mixed bunch of raw recruits that have just signed up for Christianity that God needs to take to Boot Camp!!

Read again 1 Kings 17:2-5 Read

After blasting out a warning to Ahab, we could expect him to stick around in this confidence and get in the face of Ahab. Pressing the Godless king into submission. (Like Moses and Pharaoh)

That's what we would do. Not what God does. Gods plans are full of mystery, he sends Elijah on a camping trip.

He sent Elijah to the Brook of Cherith

Cherith: Root word Charath: To cut off or to Cut Down.

God needed to get Elijah away from his everyday involvement and activities (Cut Off) so that he could deal with him in a special way (cut Down) To force Elijah to trust in him in all ways. **Prov 3:5-6**

God needed to prepare Elijah for encounters that might destroy less obedient, less committed, less prepared servants.

Quote: A W Tozer said *"It's doubtful that God can bless a man greatly until he has hurt him deeply"*

At this point Elijah was just a spokesperson for God. In verse 1 he is simply described as Elijah the Tishbite. A nobody from Nowhere. You may well feel like a nobody from nowhere.

Verse 24 And the woman said to Elijah, Now by this I know that you are a man of God, and that the word of the Lord in the mouth is truth

By the end of Ch 17, he has become a man of God. His boot camp experience has transformed this unknown into a man that was now ready to do God's work.

At this point you may well say, " I don't like camping" I like my comfort and where I am. Then I would say to you at this point " That is your choice. No one is forcing you or making you. **But if you have signed up, then this is part of the journey.**

Do you really want to stay where you are. Don't be scared, take a deep breath (Of God) and go for it. God will look after you.

Daniels Vision: The reassurance from God that they would not Perish. (Daniel 2:17/18 Previous teaching)

Elijah takes this promise as he takes his first steps of faith.

1 kings 17:3 Get you now and turn eastward, and hide yourself by the brook of Cherith that is before Jordon.

Hide: To be absent, To conceal, to be secret.

Take yourself away from your world of endless activity, get out of the limelight where its all about you, away from things that satisfy your human pride.

Just you and me ...

Maybe God is calling you to Get away and hide for a time. Maybe that's where some people go and we just did not understand. Be sure if that's where you are then by **Verse 24, you are going to be the man or woman of God ready for the task.**

Promise of God's provision.

1 Kings 17:4 And it shall be, that you shall drink of the brook, and I have commanded the Ravens to feed you there.

Drinking from a brook I can handle, although remember this is the place that will cause you to be less and God to be more.

Camping as a boy: Always chose to camp by a stream by Brecon.

But Ravens!! Being fed by birds!! Try that one today.

Philippians 4:19 But my God shall supply all your needs according to his riches in glory Christ Jesus.

Brings you down to earth with as bump when God says part of my glory is to accept that I can send Ravens to feed you.

Ok so then the Ritz is off, the Caviar is off the menu, just Cherith and Ravens.

Philippians 4:11 Not that I speak in respect of want, for I have learned in whatsoever state I am, there I am content.

Content: To be totally satisfied, Laid Back (no cares or worries)

Why, because of 4:19 ...

Obedience

1 Kings 17:5 So he went and did according to the word of the Lord, for he went and dwelt by the brook of Cherith that is before Jordon.

He went with the right attitude, one that followed the word of God.
Not the word of man.

How are you when Gods word comes to give direction? Sends you or asks you to do something out of your comfort zone?

A weekend away is ok, maybe a week or so and we are looking forward to coming home to all those comforts. Away from camping food.

Here he dwelt, he was there for a good twelve months. The brook would soon dry up, the Ravens would soon run out of food....

Elijah was obedient in the presence of kings and also in private.

Sometimes we just need to get away and allow God to Change us. Strip away everything that is not of him.

Ice Sculpture. Horse: The ice sculptor was asked how he managed to sculpt a horse out of ice. He replied, That's easy, I just chip away everything that doesn't look like a horse!!

Can we look to Christ as an example? Certainly we can.

Matthew 12:15

Mark 3:7

From Dangers

Luke 5:15/16

Fame, reputation, the one every relies on

Luke 9:18

Alone Praying,

John 8:29

Fellowship with the Father. One to One time

Maybe God's calling you to withdraw and regroup, to rethink some things through. To have a time of renewing your soul, your vision or your desire.

Just you and God at Boot camp, You'll come away ready, a man or woman of God.