

Standing in the shadow of God:

1 Kings 17:17-24 Read

As we begin to look at this stage of Elijah's life, I would like to take us to the 11th Chapter of Hebrews. A condensed version of great men and women of God in the Old Testament.

Smith Wigglesworth preached more sermons from this chapter of scripture than any other book of the bible.

Why?, because it opens our eyes to what faith can do. It also challenges us to walk and to talk as they did. It also shows how remarkable and unfathomable God is!!

Things happen by Faith:

By faith Abel offered a better sacrifice to God.

By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death.

By faith Noah, being warned by God about things not yet seen, in reverence, built an Arc.

By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed.

By faith Sarah herself received the ability to conceive.

By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau.

By faith Jacob, as he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph.

By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents.

By faith Moses when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter.

By faith Rehab the harlot did not perish along with those who were disobedient.

After this wonderful roll call of men and women of faith we read in **verse 35: "Women received their dead raised to life again"**

What made that list of greats remarkable, is that there was a name missing. Elijah name is not mentioned in the roll call!!

Reminded: **John the Baptist:**

Mount of Transfiguration: Elijah mentioned

God is remarkable. He calls the accolades as we stand in his shadow.

After all he accomplished and was to accomplish, not a mention. Yet maybe the Spirit of God had Elijah in mind when he inspired the writer in verse 35.

Next week we celebrate the Lord's resurrection, but their was a return to life that happened in Elijah's day. The God that raised Christ from the dead also raised the widows son and he used a man to do it.

God specialises in the impossibilities. Last week we shared

Luke 18:27

We also have : **Jeremiah 32:17, Jeremiah 32:27, Luke 1:37**

There are times when God acts on His own as in creation and in raising Christ from the dead.. No one else involved. There are other times when God deliberately uses human instruments to work His miraculous power.

Our Man Elijah stood in the shadow of God and was used in a miraculous way.

1 Kings 17:17 Read

After what things?

Let's remind ourselves at this point how far we have come on the journey.

1. Confronting Ahab and announcing drought.
2. Go and run and hide at Cherith where I will cut you down to size. Feed you from Ravens. A place of Solitude, a time to wait on God, Time to lean on Him.
3. Next, Go to Zarephath. Go from cutting down to the furnace like crucible. Get all the mess out of your life. Whilst here you will meet someone who will provide for you, but it will be your faith that brings this about. You will encourage others to believe and trust.

God needed a person who had gone through all the aforementioned. You cannot “go directly to go and collect £200.00”

Elijah was the man prepared by God and was ready for his next task.

A Death in the Family

1 Kings 17:17 Read again

Breath: Divine Inspiration, Vital Breath

He was definitely without life, he was dead.

This was a physical death, but what happens when there is a spiritual death in the family?

The same pattern so often applies: The widow, the mother looked around for someone to blame. A natural reaction is to blame someone else for the bad things that happens in life.

This could be any family combination: Husband wife ...

Matthew 5:45 “For He makes the sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and the unjust.

It should never be an indication that something is wrong or that someone has done wrong.

She blames Elijah for the tragedy and looks upon her situation as a condemnation from God.

Romans 8:1/2 Read

The Prophet Elijah our hero, had done so much for this lady.

Remember that at one stage she was getting ready to go home and die. After Elijah helped her, she enjoyed a plentiful life.

You or I react the same way and we should not judge this lady too harshly. We all say and do stupid out of character things. This does stop us being who we are in Christ. (Remember Job's wife)

She was hurting really bad and God knew, what's more the man of God knew as well.

God's Grace: Getting what don't deserve.

Eph 2:8/9 There are situations like this that we need a whole heap of God's grace to save us

1 Kings 17:19 Read

Elijah is on new ground and responds remarkably well. No rebuke, No condemnation, No reminders of what he'd done for her.

Don't forget, he does not deserve to be treated like this. He could so easily have walked away.

Every step he has done exactly what God had asked of him. Now he's getting all the blame. (Ever had that .. " It's all your fault ")

He simply says " Give me your son"

On that wonderful day, Elijah connected with God's heart and simply said the widow,

" Give me the cause of your brokenness, place your burden into my arms"

This is a wonderful sign of maturity, understanding, grace, Love. Here we have God calling out to this widow. Give me the cause of your broken heart, I want to take away what's causing the problem and fix it, then give it back to you.

Isn't that what the gospel is all about. Giving all our brokenness to Jesus, our burdens to Jesus.

Psalm 55:22 *Cast thy burdens upon the Lord and He shall sustain you. He shall never suffer the righteous to be moved.*

Matthew 11:28-30 *Read*

Next week, Good Friday. Easter. The cross, the sacrifice that Christ made to take away the burden. To take away the pain, the shame, the guilt, the worry, the fear. The brokenness.