

Sunday 7th April 2013

Elijah: Part 7 Standing in the shadow of God

Do you have an impossible situation that you would like God to work a miracle? Then tonight, God has a message for you.

1 Kings 17:19 And he said to her, give me your son. And he took him out of her bosom and carried him into the loft where he abode and laid him upon his own bed.

Bosom: To enclose, To hold within.

How we carry those things that hurt us the most, close to our hearts. Embracing them, cradling them. And how hard we find it to give them up, give them to God.

Splinter: Big or small, unless you dig them out they can get infected and hurt like anything. What a relief when you finally dig it out. Aahh.

Psalm 55:22 Cast your burdens onto the Lord and He shall sustain you. He will never suffer the righteous to be moved.

As we look at tonight's verses we will see both the widow and Elijah growing in God through their trust and faith.

Don't forget that neither of them knew what was going to happen next.

Sometimes we have no idea of what is going to happen next when we act in faith. If we did, it would not be called faith!!

Isaiah 54:16 Behold I have created the smith that blows the coals in the fire, that brings forth an instrument for His work; and I have created the waster to destroy.

What we see emerging from Elijah's situation and the widows brokenness, is an instrument fashioned in the fire of life's trials. The instrument is called faith.

Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him; for he that comes to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of those that diligently seek him.

Elijah was learning to diligently (Faithfully, Regularly, Desire) seek God. In this situation, he had no option. And sometimes neither have we.

Because faith gives us hope. Without hope we have nothing.

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

The widow had a hope, why?, because she had faith. Why else would she give up her son.

One minute she was blaming Elijah, then she finds herself trusting in him again. (So much like us. Up and down)

Perhaps Elijah's gentleness in how he dealt with her, began to soften her heart.

 " Gentle spirit dwell with me
 I myself would gentle be
 And with words that help and heal
 Would thine like in mine reveal.

1 Kings 17:19 And he said to her, give me your son. And he took him out of her bosom and carried him into the loft where he abode and laid him upon his own bed.

He carried him up into the loft where he lived and laid him upon his bed.

The quite place:

Elijah retreated to his quite place, the place where he did business with the Lord.

Do you have a secret place, a place where you can go when disaster strikes?

Or do you just go on working things out for yourself. Carry on complaining and blaming and moaning.

Elijah took the problem to God with no fear, no panic, and most of all no doubt!!

Psalm 91:1-4 **Read**

In the secret place you will find answers.

1 Kings 17:20 And he cried unto the Lord and said, O Lord my God have You also brought evil upon this widow with whom I travel by slaying her son?

He gets real with God. He raises some tough questions.

Lord, what are you doing?

What are You trying to tell me?

Why would you break this poor widows heart who was just starting to trust you? Lord, This is totally beyond me...

What a way to talk to God. Quite bold, daring, it would seem to forward. But this is a boldness born out of Relationship and not Familiarity. The boldness that is justified because of our own personal struggles.

The Apostle Paul encourages Christians to have this boldness.

Hebrews 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly into the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in a time of need.

Our secret place becomes the throne of grace where we will get some answers and some much needed help.

What happens next could only be of God.

1 Kings 17:21 And he stretched himself upon the child three times and cried unto the Lord and said; O Lord my God, I pray You let this child's soul come unto him again.

To this point there had been no recorded account of anyone being raised from the dead. The nearest we get to it is Enoch.

Gen 5:24 And Enoch walked with God and he was not for God took him.

One minute he was there, the next gone!! Gone to glory with God. But even here he did die, just vanished!!

The amazing thing is, where did Elijah get this from. How could he ask God for something that had never happened before. No manual, no records, no tales that were spoken of. Never before had this been done.

Just maybe from the secret place we could be bold enough to ask God for something that has never happened before. The answer to you problem may not be written anywhere for you to look up, but that does not mean to say that God could not make it happen.

Answers: The world we live in has lots of answers to lots of problems, WWW, What to do when this happens books. Step 1,2,3 for this or step 4,5,6 for this emergency.

You may be tired of looking for the answers and not found them. Maybe you have been looking in the wrong place.

Bermuda Triangle:

Only God has the real solution to your problem and maybe tonight you can draw close enough to God to find it.

1 Kings 17:21 “And he stretched himself upon the child three times”.

Here we see Elijah totally breaking the rules of Religion.

Ceremonially, it was an unclean act. A man of God should not touch the dead.

Not much has changed today. We are called as did to break through religion and touch the unclean, the spiritually dead, the lost, the outcasts. Those that do not fit into religion.

Mark 16:15 Read

Just as Elijah was inspired by God to touch the body of a dead boy and wait, so are we called to touch this spiritually dead world and wait. Wait for God to do the impossible.

Proverbs 3:5/6 Read

Elijah said and we can echo these words:

Lord I am here by your appointment

I am standing under your shadow

This is your call, in your time.

I ask you to do something incredible and impossible.

The Miracle:

Verses 22-24 Read

God responds to faith. The miracle, the raising to life a dead boy. No fuss, no fanfare. Just a nod and a smile.

“ I've seen God do it”.

Then quietly he takes the child back to his mother and says
“ see, your son lives”

Not look what I've done, or told you so. Just in awe of what God has just accomplished, Your son lives.

What Elijah wanted the woman to see was the miraculous power of God. She knew her son was lifeless and she now knew he was alive. The impossible had been achieved.

Verse 24: The once messenger has now become a man of God.

Do you want to be a man or woman of the world, or a man or woman of God?

In like gospel, Jesus exhorts those who wish to be people of God.

Luke 6:44-48 Read

If you wish to be man or woman of God, then you must face impossible situations of life with the same faith as Elijah.

Tonight maybe you could give God the corpse of your life and ask him to revive those lifeless areas that need to be revived. If the situation calls for it, trust him for a miracle, in his time, if it be his will for your life.

On the bed of your life place the remains of your broken and scarred past, the emptiness of your poor character traits, the habits that have long controlled you. The limited vision that continues to characterise you, the slight irritation that looms large, the anger, the greed, the resentment, the selfishness and pride.

Lay them all out before God and under his shadow, wait for the impossible.