

A Mother With More Than Water

Text: 1Kings 17:8-24

Introduction

The story of the widow of Zarephath (1 Kings 17) occurs during a severe, multi-year drought in the mid-9th century BC, triggered by the prophet Elijah to confront Israel's King Ahab and queen Jezebel over Baal worship. The famine affected Israel and surrounding Phoenician territories, severely impacting food and water supplies.

- **The Drought:** The famine was extreme, described as lasting three years and six months. It was a direct challenge to the Baal cult, which worshipped the deity believed to control rain and fertility.
- **Economic Conditions:** The region was a prominent maritime culture, but the famine created extreme poverty. The widow is depicted as a marginalized, impoverished person gathering sticks for a final meal.

COMMON REALITY — Motherhood can feel overwhelming, exhausting, and worrisome. Sometimes you have probably thought, “I just don’t know if what God is asking of me is something I can do well for my child.”

BIG THOUGHT — The success of Motherhood (anyone living the Christian life) has never rested upon the strength and ability of the Mother. The provision, enablement, and power a mother (or any Christian) needs, rests solely upon God!

EXTREMELY IMPORTANT — Your ability to provide will continually change throughout life. However, God’s ability and promise to provide for you and equip you **NEVER CHANGES!**

1) She Receives God’s _____

Verses 8-9

A. She was to _____ God’s will

- “Sustain” = to provide v. — to give what is desired or needed, especially support, food, or sustenance.
- Sometimes we mistakenly re-write God’s character in our mind based upon the comparison of God’s command and what we think is our limits.

2) She Receives An _____ Request

Verses 10-11

- She had to make a decision: Do what makes sense in light of her supplies (or) Do what faith says in light of Who made the heavens and earth.

3) She Receives A Moment To _____ God

Verses 12-16

A. She was honest about her little _____

B. She was honest about her _____

- Peter and John told a crippled man once, Acts 3:6 “6 Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.”

C. God reveals how His plan is _____ to her little supply

- God removes her fear (v13)

D. We learn about the realm of God's _____

- Supplying His request must come first.
- Hebrews 11:6 “6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”
- When God's Word (the truth found within the Bible) is given priority, the impossible happens.
- “according to the “word of the Lord” (v16).

4) She Witnesses _____ Power

Verses 17-18

A. God is much more than _____ provision

- Psalm 119:75 “75 I know, O Lord, that thy judgments are right, And that thou in faithfulness hast afflicted me.”
- 1 Samuel 3:18 “18 And Samuel told him every whit, and hid nothing from him. And he said, It is the Lord: let him do what seemeth him good.”

B. God's power is _____ on resurrection