

**Elijah and the Widow at Zarephath - Part 2**

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*based on notes by Paul Tripp*

During our online service this week we looked at the first part of 1 Kings Ch17. Firstly, Elijah is miraculously and surprisingly fed by the ravens, before God leads him to the Widow at Zarephath.

**Can you think of a time when God met a need in your life in a surprising or miraculous way?**

This story would be amazing enough if it stopped at verse 16, but it doesn't, it takes a dramatic turn. Let's read the rest of 1 Kings Ch 17.

*17*Some time later the son of the woman who owned the house became ill. He grew worse and worse, and finally stopped breathing. *18*She said to Elijah, "What do you have against me, man of God? Did you come to remind me of my sin and kill my son?"

*19*"Give me your son," Elijah replied. He took him from her arms, carried him to the upper room where he was staying, and laid him on his bed. *20*Then he cried out to the LORD, "LORD my God, have you brought tragedy even on this widow I am staying with, by causing her son to die?" *21*Then he stretched himself out on the boy three times and cried out to the LORD, "LORD my God, let this boy's life return to him!"

*22*The LORD heard Elijah's cry, and the boy's life returned to him, and he lived. *23*Elijah picked up the child and carried him down from the room into the house. He gave him to his mother and said, "Look, your son is alive!"

*24*Then the woman said to Elijah, "Now I know that you are a man of God and that the word of the LORD from your mouth is the truth."

- ◆ **Why in the world would God allow this to happen?**
- ◆ **Does it make any sense to provide endless provisions for the boy's sustenance, and then allow him to die immediately afterwards?**
- ◆ **Shouldn't God be rewarding the widow for her act of faithfulness?**

This isn't a sick joke, it's a divine calling! God has chosen this poor widow and her only son to be included in a prophecy about the most significant event that would ever happen in history. God has chosen for her to be an actual living witness to death and resurrection.



Through the widow of Zarephath, God would declare himself not only to be the Giver of Life (in terms of making provision for the needs of his children), but as the Giver of Life who could do what no person could ever do - defeat death. What a picture!

The prophet lays himself on the body of the boy, cries out for God to give life to him, and the boy begins to breathe again, so the prophet can deliver this son back to his mother. Put yourself in the scene of this story. How discouraging, then amazing, then depressing, then incredible must these moments have been for all involved!

This moment of the death and life of the widow's son is a physical prophecy of another only Son who would die and who would rise again. Jesus would die, carrying our sins, but he would not stay dead. No, he would rise out of the tomb conquering sin and death, giving life to all who put their trust in him. The resurrection of the son of the widow is a historical finger pointing to the future resurrection of the Son of Man, the Lord Jesus Christ.



When she went out to pick up sticks for her last meal, the widow of Zarephath had no idea of the incredible turn her life would take. It would not be her last day, because what was lurking over her wasn't the shadow of death, but the Giver of Life, who would not only give her life, but through her, preach life to all who believe.

**Can you identify a time when you were overjoyed that God had answered your prayer or met your need only to find that circumstances became even worse some time afterwards?**

**How did this make you feel toward God?**

**Have you discovered God's bigger purpose, or are you able to trust that God is still at work on a bigger canvas?**

### **Trust In You - by Lauren Daigle**

Letting go of every single dream  
I lay each one down at Your feet  
Every moment of my wandering  
Never changes what You see  
I've tried to win this war, I confess  
My hands are weary, I need Your rest  
Mighty warrior, King of the fight  
No matter what I face, You're by my side

#### *Chorus*

When You don't move the mountains  
I'm needing You to move  
When You don't part the waters  
I wish I could walk through  
When You don't give the answers  
As I cry out to You  
I will trust, I will trust  
I will trust in You

Truth is, You know what tomorrow brings  
There's not a day ahead You have not seen  
So in all things be my life and breath  
I want what You want, Lord, and nothing less

You are my strength and comfort  
You are my steady hand  
You are my firm foundation  
The rock on which I stand  
Your ways are always higher  
Your plans are always good  
There's not a place where I'll go  
You've not already stood