

Elijah At the Widow's House (1 Kings 17:7-16)

- Hudson Taylor: "God's work done in God's way will receive God's supply"
- God could have sustained Elijah's brook indefinitely, but He wanted him to move
- But why Zarephath? a Phoenician pagan place between Sidon and Tyre
- The place of God's provision was the home of a widow (9) in Jezebel's backyard.
- Jezebel's father was high priest king in Zarephath, so why did God bring there

I. Because He is God and Reigns Sovereignly over All

- Sending Elijah to Zarephath, testified that God's sovereignty had no boundaries
- The crisis arose in Israel but it had been caused by the Phoenician god Baal
- This Baal was worshiped as the god who provided rain and fertility
- The true God of Israel had inflicted a drought far beyond the borders of Israel
- This was God's way of saying that the pagan gods of the nations are an illusion
- Ironically, the Phoenician people were starving, but Israel would worship Baal.

II. God Sovereignly Chooses the Most Unlikely Instrument

- Israel's God was never meant to be the exclusive property of Israel (Gen 12:2)
- When Israel began to worship Baal they became like all the other nations
- God would not allow Israel's disobedience to derail His plan for the Gentiles
- God sent Elijah to this widow to show how His grace would spread to the nations
- Israel took their covenant with God to mean that He was their exclusive property
- Israel's special relationship was so that they would be faithful, not exclusive

III. God Sovereignly Tests and Tries the Widow's Faith

- Miracles are God's way of testifying to the truth of His Word & His messengers
- Miracles are redemptive, they redeem and restore, they overcome the results of sin
- Miracles anticipate the renewal of the heavens and the earth at the end of time
- No surprise, God's prophets are pictures of agricultural bounty and supply
- There was no lack in the Garden of Eden, & there will be none in heaven
- The widow of Zarephath and her son only had a foretaste of what was to come
- The widow and her son are a picture of how God chooses the weak & foolish
- But Elijah's visit to the widow shows most that God's Words demand our all
- The widow was asked by Elijah to trust God's Word in a life and death situation
- God's promises often seem unbelievable, even down right unbelievable
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