

**Welcome friends to another broadcast of “Morsels for Zion’s Poor”**

The LORD had many followers during the early days of HIS ministry. Multitudes flocked to HIM in order to see the wonders wrought by HIS hands and to eat of the food which HE seemed to bring out of thin air. But as time went on and the searching and convicting nature of HIS message began to sink in; more and more of them fell away and walked no more with HIM. Some began to fear the Jewish leaders who despised HIM and some simply could no longer abide HIS message which took away a man’s reason to hope in his own ability to deliver himself from certain destruction.

Religious men love instruction which encourages them to perform deeds, pray prayers, and carry out acts of devotion which they assume are pleasing in the sight of GOD. They like checklists of dos and don’ts, by which they can compare themselves to others. They grow hostile however, when they are told that they have no power or ability to do anything which would gain them favor in HIS sight.

They love the doctrine of predestination as long as they think they are the predestinator. The same is true of the doctrine of election. As long as men are assured that they are the ones who choose GOD they feel quite satisfied. But let someone point out that the scripture says that GOD is the ONE who does the choosing and they grow angry.

We see this illustrated in the reaction of the Jews when the LORD told them of the widow and the leper. *“And all they in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath.”* They were so angry that they would have thrown the LORD off of a cliff had HE not hid HIMSELF from them. There will always be a contrast between those who are caused to bow in submission at HIS feet and those who are left to their nature to balk when confronted with HIS absolute power and dominion and HIS right to create some vessels unto honor and some to dishonor as it pleases HIM.

There are some lessons we can learn from Elijah’s visit to the widow’s house which illustrate the manner in which the LORD is pleased to deal with those who are HIS elect.

Elijah was sent to this widow whose circumstance was no different than many other widows which were in Israel at the time. The elect of GOD are sinners of the same sort and type of those who perish and it is only GOD who makes them to differ. There is no indication that this woman had done anything to make herself worthy of such a visit. Even as none of the elect are shown grace for any other reason than that they have been made the recipients of HIS mercy.

Elijah was sent to this widow because she was highly favored among all of the widows which were in Israel. GOD is pleased to send HIS messengers to declare the good news of the gospel to those whom HE has predestined to hear it. As Luke writes, *“as many as were ordained to eternal life believed.”* The LORD said, *“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.”*

Elijah came to this widow in the midst of her poverty and took away the last thing that she had confidence in. The health and wealth preachers would have us believe that Elijah went down to her house with a sack full of groceries to help her in her time of need. Yet he came there empty handed and commanded that she give him her last bit of food and in so doing stripped her of even the little that she had. So does the SPIRIT of GOD when HE visits one of HIS own.

Elijah increased the widow’s poverty in order to give her a gift she could never have imagined. She had no idea that he was about to supply her with a continual supply of bread. The LORD JESUS CHRIST is the BREAD of heaven which if a man eat he shall never again hunger. HE is pleased to come and feed HIS sheep and they shall never perish. *“And I will bring the blind by a way that they knew not; I will lead them in paths that they have not known: I will make darkness light before them, and crooked things straight. These things will I do unto them, and not forsake them.”*

Elijah was sent to a widow whose heart the LORD prepared. The LORD told Elijah, *“Arise, get thee to Zarephath, which belongeth to Zidon, and dwell there: behold, I have commanded a widow woman there to sustain thee.”* This is the same fashion in which the LORD sent Paul to preach to Lydia, *“whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul.”* The LORD ordained to apply HIS blessings upon her house in preparing her heart and causing her to be obedient.

Elijah continued to bless this widow by abiding in her house. When her only son was dead he restored his life, lest she should be swallowed up with overmuch sorrow. GOD does indeed subject HIS own to manifold trials but HE is faithful to deliver them. *“There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.”*

*“Thy free grace alone,”* #11 **If you would like a free transcript of this broadcast email us at [forthe poor@windstream.net](mailto:forthe poor@windstream.net)**