

A Foreign Widow's Mission

1 Kings 17:7-24

I. **THE PROVIDENCE OF GOD**

A. **"I Have Commanded"** (vs. 4, 9)—God is the Almighty Sovereign

1. God already has a plan.
2. He has the power to make it happen.
3. We don't have to *know* God's plan for it to work.

B. **"Don't Be Afraid"** (v. 13-14)—God's providence provides the basis for great confidence.

1. Fear is characteristic of the human condition since the Fall of Eden.
2. God understands our fear and has compassion on us.
3. God reassures us with the promise of His help.

C. **Daily Bread** (v. 14; Ex 16:35; Mt 6:11, 31-32)—It's about relationship.

1. God's resources are inexhaustible.
2. God's care is faithful, hands-on and involved.
3. You can't hoard manna but must trust God daily to deliver it.

II. **THE CHARACTER OF GOD**

A. The Compassion of God (Deut 10:18; Ps 146:9)

1. For Widows and the Fatherless (Ex 22:22; Ps 68:5; Js 1:27)
2. For Foreigners (Ex 22:21; Jer 49:11; Lk 4:25-27; Jn 10:16)

B. The Humility of God (vs. 10-11; Lk 4:25-26; Jn 4:7)—Asking for help in order to *bring* help

1. The people we *need* to help us are the ones we are also *sent to bless*.
2. Our weakness makes our witness accessible.

III. **THE WIDOW OF ZAREPHATH**

A. **Her Faith**

1. She **recognizes** and **honors** Elijah as a prophet of the LORD. (v. 12, 14)
2. She **believes** and **obeys** the word of the LORD (v. 15; Ps 9:9-10)—Giving **first** is a declaration of faith

B. **Her Fear** (vs. 12-15, 18)

1. There won't be **enough** left for me and my family. (Mal 3:10; Phil 4 :19)
2. **My sin has ruined my life.** (If it were not for Jesus, this would be true!)
3. **God is out to get me.**

IV. **THE MYSTERIOUS METHODS OF GOD**

A. **God Sends Crises.** (Is 45:7)

1. The **Drought of the Land** (natural or economic conditions)
2. The **Death of a Loved One** (personal, relational tragedy)
3. A **Guilty Conscience** (the problem of sin)

B. **God Reveals Himself in Crises.** (Jn 11:14-15, 40, 45)

1. The **Reality of our Situation**
2. The **Glory of God**
3. So we might **Believe in Him**

C. **God Pursues Us.** (vs. 12, 24) *He Loves us and wants relationship.*

Because the LORD is our God,
we don't have to be afraid of anything that might happen!

SOMETIMES A LIGHT SURPRISES

Indelible Grace/*Pilgrim Days*

Lyrics: William Cowper, Kevin Twit

Music: Kevin Twit; Vocals: Derek Webb

1. Sometimes a light surprises
The Christian while he sings;
It is the Lord Who rises
With healing in His wings:
When comforts are declining,
He grants the soul again
A season of clear shining,
To cheer it after the rain

2. In holy contemplation
We sweetly then pursue
The theme of God's salvation,
And find it ever new;
Set free from present sorrow,
We cheerfully can say,
Let the unknown tomorrow
Bring with it what it may.

3. Tomorrow can bring us nothing,
But He will bear us through:
Who gives the lilies clothing
Will clothe His people, too:
Beneath the spreading heavens
No creature but is fed;
And He Who feeds the ravens
Will give His children bread.

4. Though vine nor fig tree neither
Their wonted fruit should bear,
Though all the fields should wither,
Nor flocks or herds be there
Yet, God the same abiding,
His praise shall tune my voice;
For, while in Him confiding,
I cannot but rejoice.

Listen to this song at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HuZ4z7Uu7RU&feature=share>