



1 Kings 17:17-24

“WHY”

17 Now it happened after these things that the son of the woman who owned the house became sick. And his sickness was so serious that there was no breath left in him. 18 So she said to Elijah, “What have I to do with you, O man of God? Have you come to me to bring my sin to remembrance, and to kill my son?” 19 And he said to her, “Give me your son.” So he took him out of her arms and carried him to the upper room where he was staying, and laid him on his own bed. 20 Then he cried out to the Lord and said, “O Lord my God, have You also brought tragedy on the widow with whom I lodge, by killing her son?” 21 And he stretched himself out on the child three times, and cried out to the Lord and said, “O Lord my God, I pray, let this child’s soul come back to him.” 22 Then the Lord heard the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came back to him, and he revived. 23 And Elijah took the child and brought him down from the upper room into the house, and gave him to his mother. And Elijah said, “See, your son lives!” 24 Then the woman said to Elijah, “Now by this I know that you are a man of God, and that the word of the Lord in your mouth is the truth.”

Elijah is still in a season of separation and for preparation.

Cherith (to cut off) and Zarephath (melt or smelt)

“We tend to listen better and learn more when our life is disrupted, and those seasons that can cause us frustration or even anxiety are often God’s divine interruptions to prepare us for what He knows is coming next in our life.”

People impacted by this story.

- The widow
- The son
- The prophet
- The hearers

□ Four Facts about Life

Now it happened- verse 17

✓ 1. We often face unforeseen circumstances

We have no guarantee that life will always run smoothly!

David Guzik points out that **"The death of the son was a double blow to the widow. Not only did she suffer as any mother who loses a child, but she also suffered as one who lost her only hope for the future. The expectation was that her son would grow and provide for her in her old age. Now that expectation was shattered."**

"we are obliged to bow to the sovereign dispensations of Him who ruleth over all."

1 Peter 4:12

James 4- ¹³ Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit"; ¹⁴ whereas you do not know what *will happen* tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. ¹⁵ Instead you *ought* to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that." ¹⁶ But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.

Luke 12- ¹⁶ Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. ¹⁷ And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?' ¹⁸ So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. ¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, *and* be merry.'" ²⁰ But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?' ²¹ "So *is* he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

"What have I to do with you, O man of God? Have you come to me to bring my sin to remembrance, and to kill my son?" – verse 18

✓ 2. We will always wonder why

Job 10:18- **'Why then have You brought me out of the womb? Oh, that I had perished and no eye had seen me!**

David

Psalm 10:1; 22:1; 43:2;

Jeremiah 15:18

Habakkuk 1:3, 13

Jesus

John 9:2

Elijah does not take or make this insult personal

Spurgeon - We are all too apt to mistake the grounds of our afflictions, and to blame second causes. The child had been preserved from starving by the prophet, how then could the woman blame him for his death? Sorrow makes us hasty. Elijah knew this, and was very tender towards her.

It is far easier to blame other people for being the cause of our troubles.

Job 2:10; 6:24; Psalm 119:75

The widow's words remind us of the words of Jesus' disciples when they "asked Him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he would be born blind?" (John 9:2)

Hebrews 11:35

III.- injuries, abuse, broken families, financial loss, broken relationships, divorce, jail, unfair and beyond human understanding

A MAN OF GOD will always act differently from an ordinary mundane mortal, by facing difficulties that seem unsurmountable and tasks that are impossible with men.

Then he cried out to the Lord and said, "O Lord my God, have You also brought tragedy on the widow with whom I lodge, by killing her son?" And he stretched himself out on the child three times, and cried out to the Lord and said, "O Lord my God, I pray, let this child's soul come back to him." ... And Elijah said, "See, your son lives!" – verses 20-21

✓ 3. We are faith equipped with the power of prayer

God does not answer the first question, but does answer the second question.

We serve a God who is mightier than the struggles we inherit and who is full of the desire to forgive, love, and heal the brokenness that rises up between us and Him. God is present in the places where our fears live.

Miracle- “an event that defines common expectations of behavior and subsequently is attributed to a superhuman agent, an occurrence that demonstrates God’s involvement in human affairs.”

NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE TO THE ALMIGHTY Acts 26:8;

Psalms 136:3, 4- **Oh, give thanks to the Lord of lords! For His mercy *endures* forever: ⁴ To Him who alone does great wonders, For His mercy *endures* forever;**

Elijah apparently expected great things from God!

Certainly his posture indicated total identification with the boy and his need, and this is an important factor when we intercede for others. ([Bible Exposition Commentary](#))

A prayer hearing and a prayer answering God

Henry Morris - This is the first of eight instances recorded in the Bible when a dead person was miraculously restored to life, and the departed soul returned to its body. One was accomplished through Elisha ([2 Kings 4:32-36](#)), one at Elisha's tomb ([2 Kings 13:21](#)), one each through Peter and Paul ([Acts 9:40](#); [20:9-12](#)), and three through Christ ([Matthew 9:18-25](#); [Luke 7:12-15](#); [John 11:43,44](#)). These were all "resuscitations," of course, and each of these people eventually died again. The first true resurrection was that of Christ Himself ([1 Corinthians 15:20](#)), who could say after His resurrection: "I am alive for evermore" ([Revelation 1:18](#)). Accompanying and following His resurrection was that of "many" (perhaps all) of the Old Testament "saints" ([Matthew 27:52,53](#)).

“Then the woman said to Elijah, “Now by this I know that you are a man of God, and that the word of the Lord in your mouth is the truth.”- verse 24

✓ 4. We must come to a declaration of faith

To God be the glory

EVERY ACT OF GOD SHOWS HIS POWER

Thomas- John 20:26-28;

Habakkuk 3

Acts 3:- ² And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to [\[a\]](#)ask alms from those who entered the temple; ³ who, seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, asked for alms. ⁴ And fixing his eyes on him, with John, Peter said, "Look at us." ⁵ So he gave them his attention, expecting to receive something from them. ⁶ Then Peter said, "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk." ⁷ And he took him by the right hand and lifted *him* up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. ⁸ So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them—walking, leaping, and praising God. ⁹ And all the people saw him walking and praising God. ¹⁰ Then they knew that it was he who sat begging alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him. ¹¹ Now as the lame man who was healed held on to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the porch which is called Solomon's, greatly amazed. ¹² So when Peter saw *it*, he responded to

A. W. Pink's spiritual lessons from Elijah's prayer:

First, Elijah's retiring to his own private chamber, that he might be alone with God.

Second, his fervency: he "cried unto the Lord"—no mere lip-service was this.

Third, his reliance upon his own personal interest in the Lord, avowing his covenant relationship: "O Lord, my God."

Fourth, his encouraging himself in God's attributes: here, the Divine sovereignty and supremacy—"hast Thou also brought evil upon the widow."

Fifth, his earnestness and importunity: evidenced by his "stretching himself upon the child" no less than three times.

Sixth, his appeal to God's tender mercy: "the widow with whom I sojourn."

Seventh, the definiteness of his petition: "Let this child's soul come into him again."