



Part 5: The High Cost of Dependence

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1 Kings 17:7-12

Some time later the brook dried up because there had been no rain in the land. Then the word of the LORD came to him: "Go at once to Zarephath of Sidon and stay there. I have commanded a widow in that place to supply you with food." So he went to Zarephath. When he came to the town gate, a widow was there gathering sticks. He called to her and asked, "Would you bring me a little water in a jar so I may have a drink?" As she was going to get it, he called, "And bring me, please, a piece of bread."

"As surely as the LORD your God lives," she replied, "I don't have any bread—only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. I am gathering a few sticks to take home and make a meal for myself and my son, that we may eat it—and die."

Parallels: This is an unprecedented time of fear and panic

This family has a real need

The single mom has moved beyond fear to resignation

Biblical Principle: When God's people obey, God supplies.

1 Kings 17:13-14

Elijah said to her, "Don't be afraid. Go home and do as you have said. But first make a small cake of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me, and then make something for yourself and your son. For this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the LORD gives rain on the land.'"

- Trusting God to supply is scary
- Trusting God to supply is counterintuitive
- God has called us to act counterintuitively in this time of crisis
- God has called us to extravagant generosity in the face of personal need

A Crisis of Faith: 1 Kings 17:17-24

Some time later the son of the woman who owned the house became ill. He grew worse and worse, and finally stopped breathing. 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?"

"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. Then he cried out to the LORD, "O LORD my God, have you brought tragedy also upon this widow I am staying with, by causing her son to die?" Then he stretched himself out on the boy three times and cried to the LORD, "O LORD my God, let this boy's life return to him!"

The LORD heard Elijah's cry, and the boy's life returned to him, and he lived. 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!"

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."

(Continues on back)

Elijah's name means "My God is Jehovah"

In this time of deep crisis and dependence we find God revealed in his names

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|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| <i>Jehovah-Rophi</i> | The Lord who <u>Heals</u> |
| <i>Jehovah-Jireh</i> | The Lord Will <u>Provide</u> |
| <i>Jehovah-Shalom</i> | The Lord Our <u>Peace</u> |
| <i>Jehovah-Shamma</i> | The Lord is <u>Present</u> |
| <i>Jehovah-'Ez-Lami</i> | The Lord My <u>Strength</u> |
| <i>Jehovah-Ganan</i> | The Lord Our <u>Defense</u> |

Next Steps

Make a concerted effort to meet a need this week. Offer a ride, give a gift, provide some food or give the gift of encouragement. Why? Just because.

On Your Way Home

Do you know what your name means? If so, share the meaning and how it fits you as a person. If not, research it when you get home.

Small Group Discussion Questions



- 1) How have you seen people responding to the financial crisis? How have you changed your lifestyle in light of the current economic climate?
- 2) Have you ever witnessed a moment of extravagant generosity? What happened?
- 3) Read the 17th Chapter of 1 Kings. What modern parallels and lessons do you see in the passage?
- 4) The prophet has a crisis of faith in verse 20. Have you had a crisis of faith recently? How did God respond in the middle of your crisis?
- 5) Of the names of God listed above, which one do you need to claim for this week? Why?
- 6) How can we pray for you tonight?