

**Title:** Practical Lessons from the Life of Elijah

**Passages:** 1 Kings 16:29-22; 17:1

**Introduction:**

Why Elijah?

- referred himself as a bondservant of God
- similar nature as ours: a man just like us.

Context of Passage:

- 1 and 2 Kings
- Israel fallen again and sought a king. Saul was appointed. After David and Solomon, the kingdom was divided. Eventually led to successive kings of worsening character which led to King Ahab

**Passages:**

1 Kings 16:29-33

In the thirty-eighth year of Asa king of Judah, Ahab the son of Omri began to reign over Israel, and Ahab the son of Omri reigned over Israel in Samaria twenty-two years. And Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the Lord, more than all who were before him. And as if it had been a light thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, he took for his wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Sidonians, and went and served Baal and worshiped him. He erected an altar for Baal in the house of Baal, which he built in Samaria. And Ahab made an Asherah. Ahab did more to provoke the Lord, the God of Israel, to anger than all the kings of Israel who were before him.

1 Kings 17:1

Now Elijah the Tishbite, of Tishbe in Gilead, said to Ahab, "As the LORD, the God of Israel, lives, before whom I stand, there shall be neither dew nor rain these years, except by my word."

**Overview:** Elijah

- Elijah was a man just like us.

James 5:17

*Elijah was a man with a nature like ours*, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth.

- sent by God to carry a message to a sinful society
- we are to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the world

**Who was Elijah?**

- From Gilead, known as a "heap of stones"

Genesis 31:48

Laban said, "This heap is a witness between you and me today." Therefore he named it Galeed,

- He was blunt and direct and spoke the truth from God:
  - "As the LORD, the God of Israel, lives, before whom I stand, there shall be neither dew nor rain these years, except by my word"

**Lesson 1: God provides**

- God provided for Elijah's need.

1 Kings 17:3-6

"Depart from here and turn eastward and hide yourself by the brook Cherith, which is east of the Jordan. You shall drink from the brook, and I have commanded the ravens to feed you there." So he went and did according to the word of the Lord. He went and lived by the brook Cherith that is east of the Jordan. And the ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning, and bread and meat in the evening, and he drank from the brook.

- As God provided for Elijah, He also uses extraordinarily means for you.

### Philippians 4:19

And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

### Lamentations 3:22-23

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

- greatest provision for us was spiritual through Jesus Christ!

### Romans 5:8-9

but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.

### Romans 5:6-8

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Story shared by Ravi Zacharias about God providing to someone imprisoned in a Communist prison in Vietnam

<https://sermons.faithlife.com/sermons/28754-ravi-zacharias-hien-pham>

### Romans 8:31-32, 35, 37-39

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?...

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?...

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## **Lesson 2: Because of God's faithfulness, we can bless others.**

### 1 Kings 17:8-9

Then the word of the Lord came to him, "Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. Behold, I have commanded a widow there to feed you."

- Elijah goes to a different place

### 1 Kings 17:10-12

So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, a widow was there gathering sticks. And he called to her and said, "Bring me a little water in a vessel, that I may drink." And as she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, "Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand." And she said, "As the Lord your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. And now I am gathering a couple of sticks that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it and die."

- Elijah meets the widow but she had meager means.

### 1 Kings 17:13-14

And Elijah said to her, "Do not fear; go and do as you have said. But first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterward make something for yourself and your son. For thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, 'The jar of flour shall not be spent, and the jug of oil shall not be empty, until the day that the Lord sends rain upon the earth.'"

- Elijah experienced supernatural provision from God previously. God then used Elijah to bless others.

Life of God's Legacy: Edward Kimble

- chain of God's work through a person who was simply obedient and available to God.

Summary:

- A person obeyed God, trusting God to use. God uses the person to bless others.
- What matters is your obedience and availability, not your background or pedigree.

## **Lesson 3: Because God has provided for you and blessed you, we are called to discipleship**

### 1 Kings 19:19

So he departed from there and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen in front of him, and he was with the twelfth. Elijah passed by him and cast his cloak upon him.

- God similarly call us to discipleship and make disciples

#### Matthew 28:19-20

*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.*

#### 2 Timothy 2:1-2

*You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.*

#### Weaknesses of Elijah

- Impulsive (1 Kings 18, Elijah thought of the showdown against King Ahab)
- Prone to self-pity (1 Kings 18, felt he was all alone)
- Played the blame game (

#### Strengths of Elijah:

- Listened to God
- Humbled himself before God
- Willing to serve others
- Willing to invest in others

#### Summary:

- God provides
- God blesses us to bless others
- God directes His people to discipleship and to disciple others

#### Romans 15:4-6

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.