

## “Isn’t It Amazing!”

11-08-15

The question I want to start out with this morning is, "What do you need more of?" "What is it this morning that you find you have a shortage of?" Maybe you don't have a shortage of water or food, but maybe you DO have a shortage of patience, forgiveness, or finances, and you've lost all hope in the situation in which you find yourself today. Whatever it is that you're experiencing a shortage of, I want you to listen very closely, because through the drought that Elijah experienced, God wants to show us how He's able to turn the little you have into a lot!

Open to 1 Kings 17. The miracle we're going to study today is strikingly similar to the miracle Jesus performed not once, not twice, but 3 different times when He took a few loaves of bread and a few fish and multiplied them for over 5,000 people!

Because this miracle is in the Bible so many times, it's meant to be repeated over and over in the lives of needy believers. It keeps popping up in Scripture, to emphasize a point! And the point is this, **God Can Turn Anything to Good!**

Elijah was under attack by the rulers and his hard message saying there would be a draught caused people's anger toward him put him on the run. God had sent him to a brook in the wilderness and had ravens feed him, but now the brook had dried up. Verses 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.'*" Even in impossible situations, just like Elijah's, **God Can Always Meet Your Needs!**

Well, God had removed Elijah from two difficult situations already and now God puts him in a third! Verses 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.'"*

Here's a woman who's lost her husband, (that means her only means of financial support), and has a son and nothing more! She's looking at the very end of life! But Elijah knows his God very well and trusts Him beyond human understanding!

Verses 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.'"* He's telling the woman don't worry just **Trust in God's Provision.**

If you're facing some difficulty or struggle in life right now, be it health, family, relationships, or funds, know that God's there and will provide for you out of His love and grace! There are five things you need to be willing to do, just like Elijah, if you are going to survive.

**Leave Your Comfort Zone.** As we saw from 1 Kings, God continually moved Elijah around from place to place. He'd just get comfortable, and God moved him. He was home in his nation and God told him to escape to a brook in the wilderness. Then He sent him to Zarephath in a foreign country. Maybe we become passive with our loss, pain or lack of involvement and don't want to face our needs. We don't search for a solution, we just accept that's the way it is!

If you don't think you have a need, you don't need a miracle from God. But on the other hand, the bigger the need, the bigger the miracle God will provide! Ask yourself, *"What's God telling me to do this morning?"* If you don't know, then spend some time with God in prayer until you find out. But whatever it is, do it, because it's the first step in surviving!

**Let Go of Your Fear.** When the fear of change or letting go overwhelms you, you need to remember 3 things. 1. God Knows exactly where you are! He's always there, and He hasn't forgotten you! Listen to Isaiah 41:10, *"fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."*

2. God knows where you're going too! I don't know what God has in store for my future, (neither do you), but I for one am glad! If I knew everything I was going to be faced with in the next 10 years, I'd be so scared, I'd never sleep! That's why He led Elijah, and He leads you out of whatever you find yourself in one step at a time! 3. God's prepared a place. Remember this: Wherever God tells you to go, He'll get there first! Replace your fear with the faith that God's already prepared a place for you!

**Trust His Promises.** God promises that He'll take care of you no matter what. He's not just making that promise at the last moment, but He's already planned it out! If you're going to get out of the situation you're in, you need to know that God has already provided for everything you need. He's promised! He promised to save us and that's why He sent Jesus down to earth! God made that promise 5,000 years before it actually happened! Trust Him!

**Put God First.** At times it's so easy for us to look at where we are and what we have and make that the focus of our existence. When we do that, all of a sudden God takes a back seat. God has given you so much and He continues to do it each and every day! Because of His presence and action, you need to boldly say, *"Give Thanks to the Lord for He IS good!"* He is worthy of all our praise! We need to put everything behind Him and trust Him above all!

**Commit to Him!** Remember the widow in the Gospel today? She went to the collection box in the Temple to give her offering even though she had very little to give. But she gave everything anyway out of love for God and love for His work.

Listen to Jesus' comments as He saw what she did in **Mark 12:43-44**, *"Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the offering box. For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."* She was truly committed and that's exactly what we need to be too!

Jesus continued to give these widows everything! He gave these women hope and faith! Listen, instead of despairing, if you'll learn to give out of your need, you'll learn to – **Give help** when you're helpless. **Give hope** when you're hopeless. **Give faith** when you're faithless. When you do, please know, God will give you an inexhaustible supply of all three!

Hudson Taylor served the Lord in China and experienced God's steady presence and provision. He said, *"God's work, done in God's way, will receive God's supply."* Folks, we serve the same God today. From Adam, through Jesus to us, God hasn't changed! So before you despair, before you give up and lose all hope, don't take inventory of what you've lost, but what you have left! Be willing to give out of your need and watch as **God Does the Amazing!**

That way, when you run into people who tell you all the reasons it shouldn't, wouldn't, and couldn't be done, and you hear them remark, *"Well, that's impossible!"* Stop! and listen carefully for laughter from heaven!

That's because the word *"impossible"* isn't in God's vocabulary! And as His children, it shouldn't be in ours either!