

GOD TAKES CARE OF THE GOOD MAN

I Kings 17:1–24.

LESSON 61 -- Primary Course

MEMORY VERSE: “He hath done all things well”
(Mark 7:37).

BIBLE TEXT

I Kings 17:1-24

1 And Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the inhabitants of Gilead, said unto Ahab, As the LORD God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word.

2 And the word of the LORD came unto him, saying,

3 Get thee hence, and turn thee eastward, and hide thyself by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan.

4 And it shall be, that thou shalt drink of the brook; and I have commanded the ravens to feed thee there.

5 So he went and did according unto the word of the LORD: for he went and dwelt by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan.

6 And the ravens brought him bread and flesh in the morning, and bread and flesh in the evening; and he drank of the brook.

7 And it came to pass after a while, that the brook dried up, because there had been no rain in the land.

8 And the word of the LORD came unto him, saying,

9 Arise, get thee to Zarephath, which belongeth to Zidon, and dwell there: behold, I have commanded a widow woman there to sustain thee.

10 So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, the widow woman was there gathering of sticks: and he called to her, and said, Fetch

me, I pray thee, a little water in a vessel, that I may drink.

11 And as she was going to fetch it, he called to her, and said, Bring me, I pray thee, a morsel of bread in thine hand.

12 And she said, As the LORD thy God liveth, I have not a cake, but an handful of meal in a barrel, and a little oil in a cruse: and, behold, I am gathering two sticks, that I may go in and dress it for me and my son, that we may eat it, and die.

13 And Elijah said unto her, Fear not; go and do as thou hast said: but make me thereof a little cake first, and bring it unto me, and after make for thee and for thy son.

14 For thus saith the LORD God of Israel, The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that the LORD sendeth rain upon the earth.

15 And she went and did according to the saying of Elijah: and she, and he, and her house, did eat many days.

16 And the barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail, according to the word

of the LORD, which he spake by Elijah.

17 And it came to pass after these things, that the son of the woman, the mistress of the house, fell sick; and his sickness was so sore, that there was no breath left in him.

18 And she said unto Elijah, What have I to do with thee, O thou man of God? art thou come unto me to call my sin to remembrance, and to slay my son?

19 And he said unto her, Give me thy son. And he took him out of her bosom, and carried him up into a loft, where he abode, and laid him upon his own bed.

20 And he cried unto the LORD, and said, O LORD my God, hast thou also brought evil upon the widow with whom I sojourn, by slaying her son?

21 And he stretched himself upon the child three times, and cried unto the LORD, and said, O LORD my God, I pray thee, let this child's soul come into him again.

22 And the LORD heard the voice of Elijah; and the soul of

the child came into him again,
and he revived.

23 And Elijah took the child,
and brought him down out of
the chamber into the house, and
delivered him unto his mother:

and Elijah said, See, thy son
liveth.

24 And the woman said to
Elijah, Now by this I know that
thou art a man of God, and that
the word of the LORD in thy
mouth is truth

NOTES

Years Without Rain

Because the people had forgotten the true God and had begun to worship idols, God kept the rain from falling for about three years and a half. Everything was dry, and there was little water to be had anywhere, and food was becoming scarce.

Elijah was a good man who loved and worshiped God. We know that God never forsakes those who trust in Him. So God told Elijah to go down to a brook where there was water to drink, and He said that He had commanded the ravens to bring food to Elijah.

God's Care for Elijah

As God had commanded, the ravens brought him food – bread and meat in the morning and evening. He drank water from the brook; but this brook, too, dried up. God had other plans for the good man, and told him to go to the home of a widow.

God's Care for the Widow

When Elijah came to the gate of the city he saw the woman gathering sticks to make a fire. Elijah asked her to bring him some water. And then he asked her to bring him a little bread to eat. She was going to bring him the water, but she said she had just a little bit of flour and a little oil left, and she was gathering sticks to

make a little bread for herself and her son. She expected that they would eat that bread and then perhaps starve to death.

Elijah told her not to be afraid to give him the bread first, and then she and her son should eat. He told her that God had said that the barrel would still have flour in it, and the jug would still have oil. She obeyed what Elijah told her to do, and she had food for many days.

Her Son Restored

The widow's son became very sick, and he even quit breathing. She told the good man, Elijah, what had happened to her son. Elijah carried the boy up to his room and laid him on his bed. Then he prayed to God to raise him up again. God heard his prayer, and Elijah brought the boy back to his mother and said, "See, thy son liveth." How happy the woman must have been that she had been kind to the good man, and had done what God had told her to do and what the good man had told her! She had been well paid for it by having plenty of good, and by having her son raised up again. God takes good care of those who love Him.

Sharing with Others

We can all learn a lesson from this about sharing what we have with others. If this widow had disobeyed Elijah, and had kept the bread for herself and her son, instead of giving to Elijah, she probably would not have been taken care of as she was. Jesus said, "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom" (Luke 6:38). So if we share with others what little we have, God will multiply our blessings.

The Same God Today

A chaplain who served in the late war had an interesting experience during his younger days. It happened while he was a student at a religious college in the East. After completing his year in school, in order to save money he hitchhiked home to Los Angeles. He reached a small town in Colorado one evening and was wondering where he should spend the night. As he walked down the street he saw a church, in which a service was in progress. He decided to attend the service. At the end of the meeting the minister came to him and introduced himself, and asked the young student where he was going. When the minister heard the story, he asked the young man to come home with him to spend the night.

The minister's home was a humble place; the young student felt the warmth of Christian love in that home. The wife and children gathered around and visited with the student. The minister then told the wife to bring some food for the young man, who hadn't eaten much that day.

"You know, Daddy," she replied, "we have only bread and jam in the house." "Well, bring on the bread and jam then," was the answer from the man of God.

The student found it hard to eat the food although it was delicious and wholesome; but he realized it was all they had, and perhaps even then the children were as hungry as he was. But it was given him in love, and he could not refuse it.

The children were sent to various neighbours to sleep that night so the visitor could have the bedroom. But before they left, the minister took down the Bible and read from it, as he was accustomed to do every night. Then before they prayed he said they should all agree upon just what they wanted to ask God for. "You know," he told the visitor, "I believe we should be specific

with God. If we want something from Him, it is our place to be definite in our petitions and we will receive it.”

The minister asked his wife what they needed for breakfast. “Well,” she said, “we could use some cereal, some eggs and bacon, and some milk. In fact, we have nothing at all and we need everything to make up a breakfast for this young man.” So they prayed that way -- they asked God for all the things they wanted. The student was doubtful, and feared he would have to start out the next morning with an empty stomach.

When the visitor awoke the next morning he found that the children were all present; an appetizing aroma was coming from the kitchen. Breakfast was called and he went to the table. He was very much surprised to see a table set with tasty food. “God sent it to us,” was the announcement of the minister. “He always does when we ask Him.” “But do you do this often?” the student asked. “Often we find ourselves in need, so we pray about it, and God always answers. We do not have to mention it to anyone but God. He takes care of us in a wonderful way.”

Then the minister told the whole story, how he found a sack of oats on the back porch, as he went out to do the chores. Later he went out the front door and found a package of eggs that a farmer had placed there on his way to market. They were eggs that had been cracked in handling, but strictly fresh. Along with the eggs was a package of side pork. At the front gate was a can of milk that another farmer had left on his way to market.

The young student minister enjoyed that meal as he had never enjoyed a meal -- it seemed to him like manna from Heaven. He learned a lesson that stood by him for many years. From that time forth he had many chances to prove the same God and found that the advice given by the humble man of God was good to follow in

every way. Never again did he doubt God's interest in man's needs and His power to supply according to His riches in Glory.

QUESTIONS

1. What did the ravens bring for Elijah to eat? I Kings 17:6.
2. Who sent the ravens? I Kings 17:4.
3. Where did the Lord send Elijah when the brook dried up?
I Kings 17:9.
4. Tell what happened to the widow's supply of food.
I Kings 17:14, 15.
5. Could Jesus do the same for us today? Hebrews 13:8.

LESSON RESOURCES

TITLE

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Lesson 61

I Kings 17:1-24

A Child's Thanksgiving

6
8 ↑

WATCH AND PRAY 37

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f`: m`:- m`: r`:- r`: d`:- d`: r`:-

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SONG

A Child's Thanksgiving

We sing the praise of God above

For all His goodness and His love

He sends all good things unto us

He feeds and clothes and houses us

PICTURE 1



PICTURE 2



PICTURE 3

