

Message Notes

UNDERCURRENT

Part 3: Zarephath – Where Insecurity Gives Way to Generosity

1 Kings 17:8-16

November 4/5, 2017

Pastor Daniel Hahn

What a widow from Zarephath has to teach us:

1. "I don't have..."

She had to come to the end of herself and any illusion of self-sufficiency.

"[God] wants you to have something far better than riches and gold, and that is helpless dependence upon Him."

— James Hudson Taylor

2. "Don't be afraid..."

She had to get over her fear of not having enough.

"How can we not ask at every turn, 'What is going to happen? How will this turn out?' The main thing is not to consent consciously to anxiety or a troubled mind. The moment you realize you are worrying, make very quickly an act of confidence: 'No, Jesus, You are there: nothing--nothing--happens, not a hair falls from our heads, without Your permission. I have no right to worry.' ... He is there. He is always there. He is all-powerful; nothing escapes His vigilance. He watches over each one of us 'as over the apple of His eye.' He is all love, all tenderness."

— Jean C.J. d'Elbée,

3. "from what you have..."

She had to be willing to surrender to God whatever she had.

But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

— Matthew 6:33-34

4. "She went away and did..."

She had to take action based on God's direction in her life.

"Faith don't come in a bushel basket, Missy. It come one step at a time. Decide to trust Him for one little thing today, and before you know it, you find out He's so trustworthy you be putting your whole life in His hands."

— Lynn Austin, Candle in the Darkness

Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. – 2 Corinthians 9:7

5. "So there was food every day..."

She received all that she needed—and recognized it was all from the hand of God.

Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine. – Proverbs 3:9-10

Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. – Luke 6:38

God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. – 2 Corinthians 9:8

Discussion Questions

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Take some time to review 1 Kings 17:8-16.

1. What is one thing that stuck with you from last weekend's message?
2. Why do you think God may have sent Elijah to a person who quite obviously didn't have any resources?
3. What two requests did Elijah make of the widow at Zarephath?
4. What did the widow consider inevitable for herself and her son during the drought in Israel?
5. What step did Elijah ask the widow to take in faith?
6. What promise did Elijah make if the widow would be obedient to God?
7. There is a promise made repeatedly in the Old Testament that is repeatedly stated again in the New Testament. Check out: Proverbs 3:9-10; Luke 6:38 and 2 Corinthians 9:6-8. How would you state those promises in your own words?
8. Why do you think God involves His people in the act of giving when He has any number of ways He could provide needed resources?
9. If giving is an act of faith, what action can we take that actually helps our faith grow in this area?
10. This week, what could you do to trust God more with what you have been given?