

## INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **1Kings 17:17-24**.
- B. This is the first of three sermons on the life of Elijah the prophet. I believe this study will increase your knowledge of the prophet, of the word of God and your faith.
- C. Elijah, three times was miraculously fed (ravens, a widow, angel), was a fearless reformer, rebuked kings, mighty in prayer, yielded to discouragement, was fallible in judgment, and divinely honored.
- D. Our lessons are divided up as follows:
  1. Part One:
    - a. The power of providence.
    - b. The power of faith.
    - c. The power of prayer.
  2. Part Two:
    - a. Introduction to this man of God.
    - b. The power of God.
    - c. Conclusion of his life (plus a post mortem).
  3. Part Three:
    - a. The power of the simple.
    - b. The power of being a slave to sin.
    - c. The power of Jehovah over idols.
- E. Tonight's lesson is Part 1.

## I. THE POWER OF PROVIDENCE.

- A. Scripture text: 1Kgs. 17:1-6.
- B. No rain in the land meant a shortage of food. God instructs Elijah to go hide by the brook of Cherith, east of Jordan.
- C. A raven is an unclean bird to the Jews, but Elijah happily accepts the food and water.
- D. God providentially provides for those who love Him. He has done so for centuries and always will (Rom. 8:28-30).
- E. Even in the midst of trouble and hardship (hardship brought on by God Himself) God will provide. (Ex: ram in bushes for Abraham, Moses found in river, Joseph, Esther, Cornelius.)

## II. THE POWER OF FAITH.

- A. Scripture text: 1Kgs. 17:7-16.
- B. The brook of Cherith dried up because of the lack of rain. Elijah is told to go to a town called Zarephath (Zar- a- path) and find a widow there.
- C. The widow is preparing, what she thinks, will be her last meal for her and her son.
- D. But when she follows the advice of Elijah and shares the flour and oil (bread cakes) she is blessed with flour and oil until the end of the drought.
- E. We also must learn to step out on faith! If we trust in what we have, we like this widow will die.
  1. Have faith in God (Mt. 6:30-34; Mk. 11:20-24).
  2. Faith comes sometimes only to a few (Lk. 4:24-26).

## III. THE POWER OF PRAYER.

- A. Scripture text: 1Kgs. 17:17-24.
- B. The widow's son had died of an illness and the widow was upset.
- C. We react the same way. One minute praising God for His blessings and then show words of contempt when misfortune comes our way.

- D. Elijah entreats God with prayers on behalf of the boy. The boy lives.
- E. Because of the miracle the woman not only believes in God, but in Elijah as a man of God
- F. Today our prayer life can be powerful if we allow it to be.
- G. The NT says many things about the power of prayer (Mt. 7:7,8; Jas. 4:3, 5:16-17; 1Th. 5:17).

#### **CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.**

- A. Elijah has taught us three things by these episodes in his life:
  - 1. The power of God's providence to provide.
  - 2. The power of our faith to allow God to work in our lives.
  - 3. The power of prayer in accomplishing needed tasks.
- B. The next lesson on Elijah will focus on his humble beginnings, the great story of him and the prophets of Baal and how his life ends with the passing of blessings to Elisha.
- C. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.