

1 Kings 17 - Elijah

Sunday, 20th July 2026

1. How are you coping with the hot weather? What are your top tips for keeping cool?

Read 1 Kings 17: 1 - Elijah announces a great drought

17 Now Elijah the Tishbite, from Tishbe^[a] in Gilead, said to Ahab, 'As the LORD, the God of Israel, lives, whom I serve, there will be neither dew nor rain in the next few years except at my word.'

2. **Elijah arrives on the scene and tells Ahab that, 'there will be neither dew nor rain in the next few years except at my word'. King Ahab and his wife, Jezebel, had turned away from God and were encouraging the people to worship Baal. In Deuteronomy 6:13-17**

¹³ So if you faithfully obey the commands I am giving you today – to love the Lord your God and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul – ¹⁴ then I will send rain on your land in its season, both autumn and spring rains, so that you may gather in your corn, new wine and olive oil. ¹⁵ I will provide grass in the fields for your cattle, and you will eat and be satisfied.

¹⁶ Be careful, or you will be enticed to turn away and worship other gods and bow down to them. ¹⁷ Then the Lord's anger will burn against you, and he will shut the heavens so that it will not rain and the ground will yield no produce, and you will soon perish from the good land the Lord is giving you.

- a. Whilst we might not believe that climate change is a result of 'the Lord's anger', is it a result of our actions?
 - b. If so, what actions, and are those actions in keeping with following God's way?
 - c. What can we do to help limit the effects of climate change?
 - d. Does this involve a cost and if so, are we prepared to pay it?
3. Elijah comes and speaks truth to power.

- a. In every generation, should there be people 'speaking truth to power'?
- b. What are the areas that need truth speaking into them today?
- c. What truth, if any, can you speak today?
- d. On a smaller level, are there times when you should speak truth to those around you, when they engage in conversation or actions that are not in keeping with our Christian values?
- e. If so, what stops you?

4. 'As the Lord, the God of Israel, lives, whom I serve'. Read Matthew 6:24:

²⁴ *'No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.'*

- a. Who do you serve?
- b. Can you serve two masters?

Read 1 Kings 17: 2-6 - *Elijah fed by ravens*

² Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah: ³ 'Leave here, turn eastward and hide in the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan. ⁴ You will drink from the brook, and I have instructed the ravens to supply you with food there.'

⁵ So he did what the LORD had told him. He went to the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan, and stayed there. ⁶ The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning and bread and meat in the evening, and he drank from the brook.

- 5. After speaking truth to power, God leads Elijah to a place of safety where he cannot experience the wrath of Ahab. Elijah goes into 'exile' for three years, but God only gives him one direction at a time not the route for the whole journey.
 - a. How good are we at taking directions, especially if we don't know the final destination?
 - b. How hard is it to trust God for His direction in our lives?
 - c. Where are you in your journey with God?
- 6. At the first stop God provides water, bread and meat.

- a. **One commentator has written:** ‘the bringing of meat would be a luxury and the provision of food and meat morning and evening should remind the reader of God’s unfailing provision.’ **Have you experienced God’s ‘unfailing provision’ when facing difficult situations? If so, how?**
- b. **Was His provision water, bread and meat, or was it more meagre?**

7. The food was supplied by ‘ravens’. In Lev 11:13-15 we read that the raven, along with a number of other birds, were viewed as unclean.

- a. **If we eat out, do we look for places with a 5-star food hygiene rating? What is the least number of ‘stars’ we would eat at?**
- b. **Are there any foods that we feel are unclean, and why?**

Read 1 Kings 17: 7-16, 20 - Elijah and the widow at Zarephath

⁷Some time later the brook dried up because there had been no rain in the land. ⁸Then the word of the LORD came to him: ⁹‘Go at once to Zarephath in the region of Sidon and stay there. I have instructed a widow there to supply you with food.’ ¹⁰So he went to Zarephath. When he came to the town gate, a widow was there gathering sticks. He called to her and asked, ‘Would you bring me a little water in a jar so I may have a drink?’ ¹¹As she was going to get it, he called, ‘And bring me, please, a piece of bread.’

¹²‘As surely as the LORD your God lives,’ she replied, ‘I don’t have any bread – only a handful of flour in a jar and a little olive oil in a jug. I am gathering a few sticks to take home and make a meal for myself and my son, that we may eat it – and die.’

¹³Elijah said to her, ‘Don’t be afraid. Go home and do as you have said. But first make a small loaf of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me, and then make something for yourself and your son. ¹⁴For this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: “The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the LORD sends rain on the land.”’

¹⁵She went away and did as Elijah had told her. So there was food every day for Elijah and for the woman and her family. ¹⁶For the jar of flour was not used up and the jug of oil did not run dry, in keeping with the word of the LORD spoken by Elijah.

²⁴Then the woman said to Elijah, ‘Now I know that you are a man of God and that the word of the LORD from your mouth is the truth.’

8. Time for direction number 2, and Elijah is told to move to Zarephath, ‘where I have instructed a widow to supply you with food’.

- a. **Do you think Elijah would have been annoyed at having to move again?**

- b. Do we like change? Are we annoyed when God tells us to change direction?
- c. If we don't move, do we stagnate – a bit like the brook?

9. It has been written that, 'Zarephath lay in the Phoenician territory controlled by Ahab's father-in-law'. Elijah's faith in God's providence was being tested.

- a. How easy do we find it to go into 'hostile' territory? Why?
- b. How can we help each other?

10. Whilst she had very little (she was going to use the last of her flour and oil to make a final meal, '*that we might eat it – and die*' (vs12)), she made Elijah some food from what she had left.

- a. Would you have been prepared to give your last meal away?
- b. Have you experienced a time when you have had to make a 'meal stretch'? When ... what happened ... did the meal last?
- c. Have you experienced a time when you had nothing left? What happened?

11. What is your response to people who beg for food? On a scale of 1 – 10 how sympathetic are you and why?

Unsympathetic									Very Sympathetic
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

12. Elijah stays with the woman of Zarephath, the flour and oil never run out and Elijah heals her son. At the end of chapter 17, she declares that Elijah is '*a man of God and that the word of the Lord from your mouth is the truth.*' This brings us full circle, speaking truth not just to power, but to all. On the same scale how would people would rate you as a person of God? What would help you move up the scale?

Person of the World									Person of God
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10