

Elijah – A Man Like Us?

Jas. 5:16-18



Jas. 5:16 Confess *your* faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. **The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.**

17 **Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly** that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months.

18 And **he prayed again**, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit.

We have a tendency to look at a person like Elijah as though he is in a different spiritual class than we are, yet the Bible indicates that he was like you and me. The Greek word used here is as follows:

Original Word: ὁμοιοπαθής

Transliteration: homoiopathés

Definition: of like feelings or affections

Usage: of like feelings, having similar passions and feelings, of like infirmities. <https://biblehub.com/greek/3663.htm>

Acts 14:15 And saying, Sirs, why do ye these things? **We also are men of like passions with you**, and preach unto you that ye should turn from these vanities unto the living God, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein:

Jas. 5:17 “Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are...”

1 Kings 17:17 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.**

Elijah and the widow at Zarephath are coping during a very difficult time:

- The spiritual atmosphere is horrible with idolatry.
- The economy is horrible, especially with the drought and famine.
- The emotional stability is horrible with the passing of the widow's son.

I. THE CATASTROPHE INTENSIFIES – “...there was no breath left in him.”

1 Kings 17:17 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.

A. The Deterioration – “...after these things...the son...fell sick; and the sickness was so sore...”

B. The Death – “...there was no breath left in him.”

Eccl. 9:11 I returned, and saw under the sun, that the race *is* not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, neither yet bread to the wise, nor yet riches to men of understanding, nor yet favour to men of skill; but **time and chance happeneth to them all.**

Mt. 5:45 That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: **for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.**

Isa. 26:3 Thou wilt keep *him* in perfect peace, *whose mind is stayed on thee*: because he trusteth in thee.

1 Pet. 5:7 Casting **all your care upon him**; for **he careth for you**.

II. THE CONVICTION OF INIQUITY – “...call my sin to remembrance...”

1 Kings 17:18 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?**

A. Attacking Elijah – “...And she said unto Elijah, **What have I to do with thee, O thou man of God?**”

B. Accusing Elijah – “...**art thou come...to slay my son?**”

Jas. 5:17 “**Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are...**”

C. Acknowledging to Elijah – “...**art thou come unto me to call my sin to remembrance...**”

- In essence, the widow blamed God for the death of her son.
- “LEARN TO BLAME YOURSELF!” – Dr. Bob Jones, Sr.
- Consider the attitude of a man “after God’s own heart:”

Psa. 51:1 Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies **blot out my transgressions.**

2 **Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.**

3 For I acknowledge my transgressions: and **my sin is ever before me.**

4 **Against thee, thee only, have I sinned**, and done *this* evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, *and* be clear when thou judgest.

III. THE CONFUSION OF INTENTION – “...hast thou also brought evil upon the widow...”

1 Kings 17:20 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?**

A. The Decision to Call upon the Lord – “And he cried unto the LORD...”

- Before we learn anything about Elijah, we learn that he was a man of prayer!

Psa. 12:1 **“Help, LORD...”**

Jer. 33:3 **Call unto me, and I will answer thee,** and shew thee great and mighty things, **which thou knowest not.**

Psa. 50:15 And **call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me.**

Psa. 102:2 Hide not thy face from me **in the day when I am in trouble**; incline thine ear unto me: in the day **when I call answer me speedily.**

Psa. 116:2 Because he hath inclined his ear unto me, **therefore will I call upon him as long as I live.**

Prov. 1:28 **Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer**; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me:

Jer. 29:11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.

12 **Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you.**

13 And ye shall **seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.**

B. The Desire for Clarity from the Lord – “...O LORD my God, hast thou also brought evil upon the widow...by slaying her son?”

- Within our finite limitations of humanity, we do not always understand what God is doing!

Jas. 5:17 “**Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are...**”

- Faithful believers often misunderstand what the Lord is doing:

Jn. 9:1 And as *Jesus* passed by, he saw a man which was blind from *his* birth.

2 And his disciples asked him, saying, **Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?**

3 Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.

IV. THE CHOICE TO INTERCEDE – “...Give me thy son...And he cried unto the LORD...”

1 Kings 17:19 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.

A. The Request to the Widow – “...Give me thy son...”

- The believer’s walk of faith begins with a simple step of trust.

Prov. 23:26 **My son, give me thine heart**, and let thine eyes observe **my ways**.

- The “intercessor” must take the initiative for the sake of someone else.
- Elijah did not try to explain an answer to the distraught widow.
- He chose to pray.

Rom. 11:2 God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew. **Wot ye not what the scripture saith of Elias? how he maketh intercession to God** against Israel, saying,

Rom. 8:26 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but **the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us** with groanings which cannot be uttered.

27 And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what *is* **the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God. ...**

34 Who *is* he that condemneth? **It is Christ** that died, yea rather, that is risen again, **who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.**

Heb. 7:25 Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, **seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.**

1 Jn. 2:1 My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, **we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:**

2 And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for *the sins of the whole world.*

B. The Response for the Widow – “...Elijah took the child... and delivered him unto his mother...”

1 Kings 17:21b “...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.:

- There are no recorded incidents of anyone raised from the dead BEFORE this incident. Elijah established the precedent!

Jer. 32:17 Ah Lord GOD! **behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power** and stretched out arm, *and there is nothing too hard for thee: ...*

27 Behold, I *am* the LORD, the God of all flesh: **is there any thing too hard for me?**

Luke 1:37 For **with God nothing shall be impossible.**

Luke 18:27 And he said, The things which are impossible with men **are possible with God.**

Jas. 5:17 **“Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are...”**

V. THE CONFESSION OF INSIGHT – “...Now by this I know...”

1 Kings 17:24 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.**

A. The Realization for the Widow – “...Now by this I know...”

Mt. 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, **that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.**

B. The Recognition by the Widow – “...that thou *art* a man of God, and that the word of the LORD in thy mouth is truth.”

- Unexpected tragedies are opportunities for a believer to see God work.
- Answered prayers from the past give us assurance to pray in the present.
- Answered prayers from the past encourage us to walk by faith in the future.

Jas. 5:17 “**Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are...**”

Summary

- Trials and temptations are challenges that all people must face.
- Before blaming anyone, seek clarity and guidance from the Lord through prayer.
- Learn to walk alone.
- Learn from all experiences of life, be it good or bad.
- Walk by faith, knowing that the Lord has all things under control.

Conclusion

Rom. 8:28 And we know that **all things work together for good to them that love God**, to them who are **the called according to *his* purpose.**

Prov. 3:5 **Trust in the LORD with all thine heart**; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and **he shall direct thy paths.**

Jas. 5:17 **“Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are...”**

Luke 6:46 And **why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?**

47 Whosoever cometh to me, and **heareth my sayings, and doeth them**, I will shew you to whom he is like:

48 He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for **it was founded upon a rock.**

49 But **he that heareth, and doeth not**, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and **the ruin of that house was great.**

Eph. 3:20 Now **unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think**, according to the power that worketh in us,

21 Unto him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.