

THE WIDOW OF ZAREPHATH – DEALING WITH DESPERATION

DESPERATE C _____

D _____

Some time later the brook dried up because there had been no rain in the land. 1 Kings 17:7 NIV

S _____

8 Then the word of the Lord came to him: 9 “Go at once to Zarephath in the region of Sidon and stay there. I have directed a widow there to supply you with food.” 10 So 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?” 11 As she was going to get it, he called, “And bring me, please, a piece of bread.”

Just a note: Zarephath was _____ miles away far to the north and west. It would have taken Elijah numerous days to go there.

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.” 1 Kings 17:8-12 NIV

DESPERATE F _____

13 Elijah 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. 14 For 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.’” 1 Kings 17:13-14

How many days could you eat with just the food that is in your house right now?

God calls us to give out of our a _____ AND out of our s _____.

She went away and did as Elijah had told her. 1 Kings 17:15a NIV

So there was food every day for Elijah and for the woman and her family. 16 For 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. 1 Kings 17: 15b-16 NIV

From God’s perspective, scarcity is a m _____.

DESPERATE M _____

17 Some time later the son of the woman who owned the house became ill. He grew worse and worse, and finally stopped breathing. 18 She said to Elijah, “What do you have against me, man of God? Did you come to remind me of my sin and kill my son?” 1 Kings 17:17-18 NIV

Feel her p _____: *My son is dead*

Experience her a _____: *What do you have against me?*

Taste her g _____: *Did you come to remind me of my sin....?*

19 "Give me your son," Elijah replied. He took him from her arms, carried him to the upper room where he was staying, and laid him on his bed. 20 Then he cried out to the Lord, "Lord my God, have you brought tragedy even on this widow I am staying with, by causing her son to die?" 21 Then he stretched himself out on the boy three times and cried out to the Lord, "Lord my God, let this boy's life return to him!" 1 Kings 17:19-21 NIV

Have you ever prayed a desperate prayer for God to make something better?

22 The Lord heard Elijah's cry, and the boy's life returned to him, and he lived. 23 Elijah picked up the child and carried him down from the room into the house. He gave him to his mother and said, "Look, your son is alive!" 1 Kings 17:22-23 NIV

GOD C _____ FOR DESPERATE PEOPLE

Then 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." 1 Kings 17:24 NIV

God has a special love and care for women who have lost their husbands:

He D _____ It in The Psalms:

*A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows,
is God in his holy dwelling. Psalm 68:5 NIV*

*The Lord watches over the foreigner
and sustains the fatherless and the widow, Psalm 146:9a NIV*

He D _____ It from The Prophets

*They (rulers) do not defend the cause of the fatherless;
the widow's case does not come before them. Isaiah 1:23b NIV*

*In you they have oppressed the foreigner and mistreated the fatherless and the widow.
Ezekiel 22:7b NIV*

*5 "So I will come to put you on trial. I will be quick to testify against sorcerers,
adulterers and perjurers, against those who defraud laborers of their wages, who
oppress the widows and the fatherless Malachi 3:5a NIV*

He C _____ on It from the Church

*Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans
and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world. James
1:27 NIV*

Jesus referred to this lady in his sermon in Nazareth:

24 "Truly I tell you," he continued, "no prophet is accepted in his hometown. 25 I assure you that there were many widows in Israel in Elijah's time, when the sky was shut for three and a half years and there was a severe famine throughout the land. 26 Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow in Zarephath in the region of Sidon. Luke 4:24-26 NIV

God's work in God's way never lacks God's s _____. – Elizabeth Elliott