

Title: The Calling

Text: 1 Kings 17:1-16

Target: God has to allow you to go through dry moments to show you that He is your deliverer!

1. **The Calling of a Dangerous Prophet:** “Now Elijah (**YHWH is my God**) the Tishbite, of Tishbe in Gilead, said to Ahab, ...“there shall be neither dew nor rain these years, except by my word” (Vs. 1a)
 - a. **Confronts Idolatry:** “As the LORD, the God of Israel, lives, before whom I stand” (Vs.1b)
 - b. **Causes an Intervention:** “..there shall be neither dew nor rain these years, except by my word.” (Vs. 1c)

Discussion Question: The warning to King Ahab, who worshipped Baal, given by Elijah harkens back to the warning given by God to the people through Moses (see Deut. 11:16-17). Throughout scripture God used faithful servants to give warnings, blessings, and promises. Can you think of times when God has used others to share a word with you? Have you ever been in a position to share a word from God to others?

2. **The Calling to a Desert Place:** “hide yourself by the brook of Cherith, which is east of the Jordan.” (Vs 3)
 - a. **God Speaks:** “...the word of the Lord came to him.” (Vs. 2) “...he went and did according to the word of the Lord. He went and lived by the brook Cherith.” (Vs. 5)
 - b. **God Sustains:** “...drink from the brook, and I have commanded the ravens to feed you there... brought him bread and meat in the morning and evening” (Vs. 4, 6)
 - c. **God Shapes:** “After a while the brook dried up...” (Vs. 7)
 - i. Faithful to God when no one is watching
 - ii. Faithful to God when no one is applauding
 - iii. Faithful to God when no one is promoting

Discussion Question: God made provision for Elijah at the Brook Cherith with Ravens to feed him. Think about some of the dry times in your life or times when God asked you to do something that was difficult (like speaking to the King). Perhaps he asked you to step out in faithfulness to leave a job or move to a new city. Can you look back and see God’s hand of faithfulness and provision in those times? Think of these times as your “pile of stones” like Joshua’s stones in the River Jordan marking a specific instance of God’s faithfulness.

3. **The Calling to a Desperate Person:** “Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. Behold, I have commanded a widow there to feed you.” (Vs. 9)
 - a. **A Plea for Provision:**
 - i. **A Prophet’s Request:**
 1. **Outlandish Request:** “bring me a little water in a vessel, that I may drink.” (Vs. 10)

2. **Overreaching Request:** *“And as she was going to bring it, he called her and said, bring me a morsel of bread in your hand.”* (Vs. 11)
 - ii. **A Widow's Response:** *“As the LORD your God lives...”* (Vs. 12a)
 1. **Overextend Response:** *“I have nothing baked, only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug.”* (Vs. 12a)
 2. **Overwhelmed Response:** *“gathering a couple of sticks that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it and die.”* (Vs. 12b)
 - b. **A Promise for Provision:** *“And Elijah said to her, “Do not fear; go and do as you have said. But first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterward make something for yourself and your son.”* (Vs. 13)
 - i. **A Prophet's Revelation:** *“The jar of flour shall not be spent, and the jug of it shall not be empty, until the day that the Lord sends rain upon the earth.”* (Vs. 14)
 - ii. **A Widow's Realization:** *her household ate for many days.”* (Vs. 15).
“The jar of flour was not spent, neither did the jug of oil become empty, according the word of the Lord that he spoke by Elijah.” (Vs. 16)

Discussion Question: Later, as the brook dried up, God sent Elijah to another dry land and provided for him through a widow and her son. Elijah challenged the widow to act upon her faith and feed him first with the last of her flour and oil. She does as Elijah says and her jars stay full of flour and oil. Later in verses 17-24, the woman quickly forgets God's provision and faithfulness in the death of her son. Think about the last question of looking back to see the markers of God's faithfulness to provide your times of need. How can you trust God with your current situations or struggles? Is there anything in your life that you need to turn over to God and trust Him to provide?

Take Away: Our God is a deliverer and He will see us through!

*Elijah (**YHWH is my God**), the tishbite, 1 Kings 17:1 to Elijah, the man of God 1 Kings 17:24