

SACRIFICE AND REWARD

12/4/26

God used Elijah the prophet in some truly remarkable ways. This part of his life bares very similar likenesses to our need for salvation and the opportunities that God offers to support and care for us.

The following scriptural example is a planned metaphor relating to salvation and obedience... we can learn from it.

1KIN 17:8 And the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, **9** Arise, get thee to Zarephath, which belongeth to Zidon, and dwell there: behold, I have **commanded** (appointed) a widow woman there to sustain thee. *The widow and her son are very clearly representative of the peoples of this world... in particular, their poverty represents their spiritual status.*

The first step was getting Jeremiah to go where he was asked. God's request came with a promise of support and guaranteed survival. 10 So he arose and went to Zarephath (place of refinement, smelting place, place of purification with fire, and smelting is the extracting of precious metals by heat). And when he came to the gate of the city (just outside the city), behold, the widow woman was there gathering of sticks: and he called to her, and said, Fetch me, I pray thee, a little water in a vessel, that I may drink.

11 And as she was going to fetch it, he called to her, and said, Bring me, I pray thee, a morsel of bread in thine hand. *His request was for the two essentials to sustain life... water and bread (flour and oil).*

12 And she said, As the LORD thy God liveth, I have not a cake, but an handful of meal in a barrel, and a little oil in a cruse: and, behold, I am gathering two sticks, that I may go in and dress it for me and my son, that we may eat it, and die. *She openly declares her plight... But is she faced with the choice between natural thinking and spiritual opportunity with blessing.*

God promises in advance what the outcome will be... she was not told to act on blind faith.

13 And Elijah said unto her, Fear not; go and do as thou hast said: but make **me thereof a little cake first**, and bring it unto me, and after make for thee and for thy son. **14** For thus saith the LORD God of Israel, The barrel of meal shall not **waste** (run out), **neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that the LORD sendeth rain upon the earth.** *Eternal life and natural blessing... MAT 6:33* But seek ye **first the kingdom of God**, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

She acted in faith as the Lord said she would... the reward is obvious and clear.

15 And she went and did according to the saying of Elijah: and she, and he, and her house, did eat many days. **16** And the barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake by Elijah. **MAR 10:29** And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, **30** But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.

This woman had no husband to care for her and now the only hope of her future... her son, was dead. A new problem needing a spiritual fix.

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? *Are you going to punish us for our sins?* **HEB 8:12** For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more. *Just as God revealed his will to the widow... so it is with us.*

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? *Moses said the same about Israel... EXO 32:11* And Moses besought the LORD his God, and said, LORD, why doth thy wrath wax hot against thy people, which thou hast brought forth out of the land of Egypt with great power, and with a mighty hand? **12** Wherefore should the Egyptians speak, and say, For mischief did he bring them out, to slay them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth? Turn from thy fierce wrath, and repent of this evil against thy people. *We have a much clearer awareness of God's plans for his church and their people than any Old Testament prophet ever had. We should rejoice in the solutions offered to us.*

The next verse bears a striking resemblance to the 3 steps the Lord requires for salvation...

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. **ACT 2:38** Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. **39** For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.

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. *Just as the widow had evidence... so do we!!*