



ELIJAH

JUST LIKE US

ENCOURAGEMENT FOR THE CRUCIBLE

March 7, 2021 // Tyler Scott, Lead Pastor

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In a nation that was required by law to care for its prophets, it is ironic that God uses ravens, who were considered an unclean bird, to care for Elijah. This week we meet a widow who lives in Zarephath. She is a foreigner from Jezebel's home territory. When she met the prophet, she thought she was preparing her last meal. But a single act of faith produced incredible miracles.

1. **READ 1 Kings 17:1-6.** What miracles had Elijah witnessed while he lived in the Kerith Ravine? What lessons do you think he learned while he was there?

2. God sends Elijah to Zarephath. The word "Zarephath" means *to smelt, refine, test...crucible*. A "crucible" is a severe test or trial. **READ 1 Kings 17:7-14.** Why do you think Elijah was so confident when he met the widow who was in such despair?

God sends us into the crucible to teach us the incredible.

3. **READ 1 Kings 17:15-24.** What incredible things happened in these passages? How do you think these miracles strengthened Elijah's faith in God?

4. **READ 1 Peter 4:12-13.** Does this passage encourage you or concern you? Why?

Encouragement for the crucibles

- God sees you and stands with you.
 - **READ Isaiah 41:10 and Psalm 139:1-10.** How do these passages encourage you that God sees you?
- God is our Provider and also a Surpriser.
 - Have you ever spent time in the presence of a believer who has faith like an Elijah? If so, share with the group.

- Obedience leads to blessing.
 - **READ 1 Kings 17:15-16.** Why do you think the widow was obedient? What happened as a result?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Share about a time when you were in the "crucible" (a severe trial). What did you learn?
2. How has God provided for you? Has God ever surprised you? Tell your story.
3. Have you (or someone you know) taken a step of obedience, and experienced a blessing? Explain.

GOING DEEPER:

4. What step of obedience do you feel God nudging you to take in your life?
5. What blessings do you believe could come from your obedience?

COMMIT TO MEMORY—*“So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”* Isaiah 41:10