

## WHEN YOU NEED MORE #HOPE - PART 7

5-24-15

***Hope is not optimism.***

***Optimism is psychological, optimism is personal trust in you, and optimism is often a denial of reality. Optimism is what you think you can do. It's positive thinking, not permanent trust.***

***Hope is theological; hope is personal trust in God. Hope is what you think God can do.***

- **MIRACLES ARE TO BUILD MY FAITH WHICH INCREASES MY HOPE.**

1 Kings 17:1 - Now Elijah the Tishbite, from Tishbe in Gilead, said to Ahab, "As the Lord, the God of Israel, lives, whom I serve, there will be neither dew nor rain in the next few years except at my word."

### **I. KERITH: THE RAVINE OF OBSCURITY.**

1 Kings 17:2-7 - Then the word of the Lord came to Elijah: <sup>3</sup> "Leave here, turn eastward and **hide in the Kerith Ravine**, east of the Jordan. <sup>4</sup> You will drink from the brook, and I have ordered the ravens to feed you there." <sup>5</sup> **So he did what the Lord had told him.** He went to the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan, and stayed there. <sup>6</sup> The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning and bread and meat in the evening, and he drank from the brook. <sup>7</sup> Some time later the Brook dried up because there had been no rain in the land.

- ***Kerith means: Cut off or cut down.***
- **THERE IS SO MUCH MORE THAT GOD NEEDS TO DO IN HIM, BECAUSE THERE IS SO MUCH MORE GOD WANTS TO DO THROUGH HIM.**

### **THREE REASONS GOD ALLOWS BROOKS TO DRY UP:**

1. ***TO KEEP YOU FROM DEPENDING ON THE BROOK.***
2. ***TO MOVE YOU TO A BETTER PLACE.***
3. ***TO PROVE HE HAS NOT FORGOTTEN ABOUT YOU.***

## II. JOURNEY NORTH: THE ROAD OF INSECURITY.

1 Kings 17:8-10 - Then the word of the Lord came to him: <sup>9</sup> "**Go at once to** Zarephath of Sidon and stay there. I have commanded a widow in that place to supply you with food." <sup>10</sup> So he went to Zarephath.

### *WHAT TO REMEMBER:*

1. THE PATH TO A MIRACLE IS ALWAYS THROUGH UNCOMFORTABLE TERRITORY.

2. THE SOURCE OF A MIRACLE IS ALWAYS UNEXPECTED.

**Isaiah 55:8-9** - "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord. <sup>9</sup> "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

3. THE PATTERN FOR A MIRACLE IS: COMMAND-PROMISE-RISK

## III. ZAREPHATH: THE REFINERY OF \_\_\_\_\_.

**1 Kings 17:10-16** - 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?" <sup>11</sup> As she was going to get it, he called, "And bring me, please, a piece of bread." <sup>12</sup> "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 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." <sup>13</sup> Elijah said to her, "**Don't be afraid**. Go home and do as you have said. But first make a small cake of bread for me **from what you have** and bring it to me, and then make something for yourself and your son." <sup>14</sup> 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 gives rain on the land.'" <sup>15</sup> She went away and did as Elijah had told her. So there was food every day for Elijah and for the woman and her family. <sup>16</sup> 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.

***WHAT TO REMEMBER:***

**1. WHATEVER I NEED \_\_\_\_\_ OF, I NEED TO GIVE TO GOD.**

**1 Kings 17:13-16** - Elijah said to her, "Don't be afraid. Go home and do as you have said. But first make a small cake of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me, and then make something for yourself and your son." <sup>14</sup> 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 gives rain on the land.'" <sup>15</sup> She went away and did as Elijah had told her. So there was food every day for Elijah and for the woman and her family. <sup>16</sup> 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.

**2. WHATEVER I HAVE THE \_\_\_\_\_ OF, I GIVE TO GOD.**

**1 KINGS 17:11-12** - As she was going to get it, he called, "And bring me, please, a piece of bread." <sup>12</sup> "As surely as the Lord your God lives," she replied, "I don't have any bread..."

**3. I DON'T GIVE TO BE \_\_\_\_\_ : I GIVE TO BE A \_\_\_\_\_.**

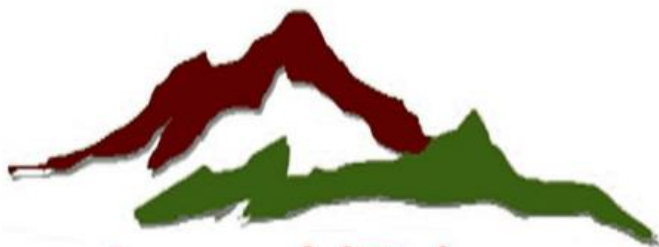
***LESSONS TO TAKE HOME:***

- 1. GOD IS ALL YOU NEED.**
- 2. GOD WILL PROVIDE WHERE HE GUIDES.**
- 3. GOD WANTS ME TO TRUST HIM EVERY DAY.**
- 4. GOD'S PROMISES ARE ALWAYS CONNECTED TO OBEDIENCE.**

Philippians 4:19 And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.

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MORE



**Laurel Ridge**  
Community Church