

Inspiring Bible Characters

The Widow at Zarephath

Our inspiring bible character for this week is known as *The Widow at Zarephath*. She was a woman, who like many of us, was going through a very difficult time in her life.

As we look at her story, we find that the land she is in has not had rain for sometime. Because of the drought, there is no water, no crops, no food. She is preparing for her and her son to die.

When we think of the difficulty of our own lives, sometimes, we, too, have a “drought” of some kind and things look hopeless. Let’s study what happens to this woman as she is expecting the worst...



Elijah gets an assignment...

- I Kings 17: 7-11
 - The Lord instructs the prophet Elijah to go to Zarephath and tells him that his needs will be supplied by a widow there. In obedience, Elijah does as the Lord tells him.
 - As Elijah expected, he is met by the widow the Lord told him about. Elijah knew that the Lord promised food from this widow, so he asks her for water and a piece of bread.

The Widow's Bleak Outlook

- I Kings 17: 12
 - The Widow expects that she and her son will die of starvation. She knows her situation and her common sense tells her what the eventual outcome will be.
 - **Question for Thought:** Often times, we, too, are in a difficult situation and our common sense tells us what the likely outcome will be. **What are you dealing with in your life now? What do you believe the outcome will be? Do you expect the best or does your logic tell you that the worst is likely to happen?**

Elijah reassures the Widow

- I Kings 17: 13-14
 - Elijah tells the widow not to be afraid and assures her that God will supply her with more than enough flour and oil to make bread until the drought is over.
 - Notice that Elijah wants her to feed him first. Elijah is the source of her spiritual nourishment because he is bring her words from God. She must keep Elijah fed so that he will, in turn, be able to feed her the words of God. The Widow complies and does what is asked of her even though it probably doesn't make sense to her to feed Elijah before she feeds her son and herself.
- I Kings 17: 15-16
 - As He always does, God keeps His promise and makes sure that the flour and oil don't run out.

*God has the **power** to make sure
that you will have enough of whatever
it is that you need.*

Despite these difficult economic
times, God is willing and able to
provide for us.

When it rains, it pours...

- I Kings 17: 17-18
 - Right after dealing with one set of problems, the Widow faces another major issue—her son is dying. Kind of sounds like our life difficulties. If it isn't one thing, it's another...
 - The Widow acknowledges sin in her life and thinks that perhaps the Lord is punishing her.
- I Kings 17: 19-24
 - Once again, the Lord steps in and does what would seem to be the impossible. He brings the Widow's son back to life.

We worship a God who is merciful. *He knew that the Widow had endured the death of her husband and near starvation. He would not allow her to then suffer the death of her son. He heard Elijah's cry and restored life to the boy.*

The Lord will be merciful to you too. During life's difficulties, hold on tight to Him and you, like the Widow, will be blessed.



The Widow at Zarephath

Inspires us to:

- Do just as the Lord asks us to do, even when it doesn't make sense to us.
- Make the most of what we have. All the Widow had was some flour and oil, yet it sustained her and her son. Stop thinking about what you don't have and look at what you do have.
- Realize that we are working with a God who can do that which seems impossible. No matter how bad our situations look, He can make things take a turn for the better.
- The Lord will send us the person or thing that we need just in the nick of time. Elijah arrived just in time to bless the Widow.
- We serve a merciful God. He wants to bless us, especially in the difficult times, but we must stay close to Him.