



Our Collective Longing and Greater Need

- God created you as a physical being and a spiritual being, and therefore, you have spiritual needs that must be satisfied.
- Seeking spiritual fulfillment in material things always leaves you spiritually hungry.
- A relationship with the Lord is the only thing that satisfies your spiritual hunger.

Elijah and the Widow of Zarephath I Kings 17:1–14 (NIV)

Background of the story

- No other prophet in the Old Testament is mentioned more in the New Testament or held in higher esteem than Elijah.
- Elijah's name means _____.
- The story takes place in the Kingdom of Israel in 874 BC.
- The king of the Kingdom of Israel was _____.
- King Ahab's wife: _____.
- She was a worshipper of the Canaanite god, _____.

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 Kings 17:1 (NIV)

- Although Elijah's words seem harsh, they should not have come as a surprise.
- *Be careful, or you will be enticed to turn away and worship other gods and bow down to them. Then the LORD's anger will burn against you, and he will shut the heavens so that it will not rain and the ground will yield no produce, and you will soon perish from the good land the LORD is giving you.* Deuteronomy 11:16–17 (NIV)
- The Canaanite god, Baal, was known as the god of the rain, and for Yahweh (the one true God) to shut down the rain proved that Baal was powerless.

Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah: "Leave here, turn eastward and hide in the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan. You will drink from the brook, and I have ordered the ravens to feed you there."

So he did what the LORD had told him. He went to the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan, and stayed there. The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning and bread and meat in the evening, and he drank from the brook.

I Kings 17:2–6 (NIV)

- _____ when we trust in Him.

Some time later the brook dried up because there had been no rain in the land. Then the word of the LORD came to him: "Go at once to Zarephath of Sidon and stay there. I have commanded a widow in that place to supply you with food."

I Kings 17:7–9 (NIV)

- Elijah travels 80 to 90 miles to Zarephath of Sidon.

Elijah to the Widow: *"Would you bring me a little water in a jar so I may have a drink?"*

I Kings 17:10 (NIV)

"... And bring me, please, a piece of bread."

I Kings 17:11 (NIV)

Widow's reply: *"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."*

I Kings 17:12 (NIV)

- She recognizes two things:
 - Yahweh is the _____.
 - Elijah was _____.

Elijah to the Widow: *"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. 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.'"*

I Kings 17:13–14 (NIV)

- Faith is the key to see _____.
- God's provision is always _____.

