

Bible reading:

1 Kings 17:7-24

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⁷ Some time later the brook dried up because there had been no rain in the land. ⁸ Then the word of the LORD came to him: ⁹ “Go at once to Zarephath in the region of Sidon and stay there. I have directed a widow there to supply you with food.” ¹⁰ 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?” ¹¹ As she was going to get it, he called, “And bring me, please, a piece of bread.”

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¹² ***“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 olive 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.”

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¹³ Elijah said to her, “Don’t be afraid. Go home and do as you have said. But first make a small loaf of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me, and then make something for yourself and your son. ¹⁴ 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 sends rain on the land.’”

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¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ 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.

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¹⁷ Some time later the son of the woman who owned the house became ill. He grew worse and worse, and finally stopped breathing. ¹⁸ She said to Elijah,

“What do you have against me, man of God? Did you come to remind me of my sin and kill my son?”

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¹⁹ “Give me your son,” Elijah replied. He took him from her arms, carried him to the upper room where he was staying, and laid him on his bed. ²⁰ Then he cried out to the LORD, “LORD my God, have you brought tragedy even on this widow I am staying with, by causing her son to die?” ²¹ Then he stretched himself out on the boy three times and cried out to the LORD, “LORD my God, let this boy’s life return to him!”

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²² The LORD heard Elijah's cry, and the boy's life returned to him, and he lived. ²³ Elijah picked up the child and carried him down from the room into the house. He gave him to his mother and said, "Look, your son is alive!"

²⁴ Then the woman said to Elijah,

"Now I know that you are a man of God and that the word of the LORD from your mouth is the truth."



THE RAISING OF THE SON

Elijah and Jesus

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Distancing himself from Israel:

**first to the brook, then to Sidon,
where Jezebel came from**

Ask for a drink in a drought...

and for bread in a famine...

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She is a believer, the mirror image of Jezebel – who is a pagan, living in Israel, and married

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- He moved in with a non Israelite woman
- Elijah seems to be comfortable with an alien, widowed female.
- multiplication of food

17:7-24

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- link of sin and death;
- Refers to her OWN sin... 1 KINGS 17:7-24
- Jesus dying for our sins

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“What do you have against me, man of God? Did you come to remind me of my sin and kill my son?”

Resurrecting the son of the woman of Shunem by Elijah, and of the widow of Nain by Jesus

resurrection of Jesus, the Son, himself

17 "Give me your son," Elijah replied. He took him from her arms, carried him to the upper room where he was staying, and laid him on his bed. ²⁰ Then he cried out to the LORD, "LORD my God, have you brought tragedy even on this widow I am staying with, by causing her son to die?" ²¹ Then he stretched himself out on the boy three times and cried out to the LORD, "LORD my God, let this boy's life return to him!"

**She already believed,
now she knows**

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THE RAISING OF THE SON

Miracles...

Hard to believe for 'modern' people

Step back, listen and get the meaning

Insisting and denying historical
factuality both destroys meaning...

LAST WEEK: DISOBEDIENCE LEADS TO DROUGHT

Focus points this story:

- Food / drink that keeps alive
- Obedience / faith leads to life
 - For the widow
 - For the son
- The word of God through Elijah restores life

2 THINGS THAT BRING LIFE

- Food and drink: Material
- The word of God: Meaning
- Man does not live by bread alone...
- but by every word of God
(Matthew 4:4, Deut 8:2-3)

2 WORLDVIEWS...

- **Materialistic/Naturalistic view**

- Cause and effect
- Deterministic
- All things happen because of a cause
- Causes are all material
- Ruled by the law of nature
- No ultimate meaning

- **Meaningful view**

- Things and events are originating from ideas
- Caused by words
- Things happen for a reason

NATURALISM – NO MEANING

- all there is, is the result of a blind process
- All there is, develops further blindly
- Empirism: all knowledge comes from the senses (seeing mainly) – 3 results
 - No god
 - No self
 - Inconsistent with itself, this ‘knowledge’ itself cannot be found through the senses
- Qualia
- Book: carbon, letters, words...

MEANINGFUL VIEW

- knowledge comes from several faculties
 - Ratio - thinking
 - Authority and tradition
 - Revelation
 - Intuition
 - Senses – also hearing
 - Where these meet and fit together, meaning arises, which can be communicated in words
- Logos

SO, BACK TO THE WORD

- Reading the Gospel
- Passage that mentions the previous story
- **Fulfilled** in your hearing
 - Completed, accomplished

LUKE 4

¹⁴ Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. ¹⁵ He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.


¹⁶ He went to Nazareth, *where he had been brought up*, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

¹⁸ “The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the
prisoners

and recovery of sight for the blind,
to set the oppressed free,

¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”


²⁰ Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to
the attendant and sat down. The eyes of
everyone in the synagogue were fastened on
him. ²¹ He began by saying to them, “Today this
scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”



²² All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips. “Isn’t this Joseph’s son?” they asked. ²³ Jesus said to them, “Surely you will quote this proverb to me: ‘Physician, heal yourself!’ And you will tell me, ‘Do here in your hometown what we have heard that you did in Capernaum.’”

²⁴ “Truly I tell you,” he continued, “no prophet is accepted in his hometown.”

²⁵ I assure you that there were many widows in Israel in Elijah's time, when the sky was shut for three and a half years and there was a severe famine throughout the land. ²⁶ Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow in Zarephath in the region of Sidon. ²⁷ And there were many in Israel with leprosy in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them was cleansed—only Naaman the Syrian."



²⁸ All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this. ²⁹ They got up, drove him out of the town, and took him to the brow of the hill on which the town was built, in order to throw him off the cliff. ³⁰ But he walked right through the crowd and went on his way.

