

SERMON: "Elijah's Example" by E A Terry Delivered 02 17 19

1st Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 10: 1 - 13

2nd Scripture Reading: Matthew 17: 1 - 13

3rd Scripture Reading: 2nd Kings 1: 1 – 17a

1st Kings 17: 1 – 24 (Sermon)

Elijah is one of the most known prophets.

Elijah's name means *"the Lord is God"*. Throughout Elijah's ministry Elijah called the people to worship and to serve The One True Living God of Israel. And Elijah proved to the people that ***"The Lord is God"***.

Elijah is most known for his contest with the 450 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of Asherah on Mt. Caramel. And 900 years later Matthew 17:3 tells us that Elijah also appeared with Moses and Jesus at the Transfiguration.

But there are many more interesting things about Elijah that we can read about in 1st Kings and 1st Chronicles.

And there are many lessons we can and we should learn from Elijah.

Remember 1st Corinthians 10 tells us the stories in Old Testament are recorded as examples to us so we will not fall prey to the temptations that The Children of Israel did.

We are to learn from the accounts in the Old Testament.

So this morning we will briefly look at the examples that Elijah gives us in 1st Kings 17 and 18.

While Elijah was a mighty prophet and God gave Elijah supernatural powers, James 5:17 tells us ***"Elijah was a human being, even as we are"***.

As we go through these examples remember, Elijah was a human being just like you and like me.

Also Elijah was tempted and tested just like you and I am.

What set Elijah apart was Elijah was totally committed to obeying and following The Lord God of Israel.

Elijah knew ***“The God of Israel was alive”***.

The first example for us is **Elijah risked his life by taking a stand for The Lord.**

In 1st Kings 17:1 we read that Elijah brought God’s message to Israel’s wicked King Ahab

King Ahab was one of the most evil, if not the most evil, of the kings of Israel.

Ahab led the Israelites into idolatry.

Yet Elijah had the courage to confront Ahab on several occasions.

Elijah delivered messages that King Ahab did not want to hear.

Elijah risked his life when he told King 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.”*** (1st Kings 17:1)

Esther and Daniel risked their life by taking a stand for The Lord.

The Apostle Paul and Stephen risked their life by taking a stand for The Lord.

And you and I will take a stand for The Lord if we really believe that Jesus is alive

The second example for us is **one person committed to The Lord can make a difference for The Lord.**

Elijah told King Ahab to ***“assemble people from all over Israel to come to Mt. Carmel”***.

Then Elijah told the people ***“if The Lord is God then follow Him, but if Baal is God follow him”*** (1st Kings 18:20).

The prophets of Baal and Asherah and Elijah each built an altar to their god and put a sacrifice on their altar.

Then the prophets were to call upon their God.

The god who answered by ***“sending fire from heaven, He is God”*** (1st Kings 18:24).

Elijah was one man but he went up against 450 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of Asherah.

All morning long the prophets of Baal and Asherah called on their gods but nothing happened.

But when Elijah prayed, ***“the fire of The Lord fell and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones, and the water in the trench.”***

When all the people saw this they fell prostrate and cried, ***“The Lord – He is God! The Lord – He is God!”*** (1st Kings 18:38-39).

Then Elijah killed the 450 prophets of Baal and the 400 prophets of Asherah.

You see each one of us can and we will make a difference for The Lord if we really believe that Jesus is alive

The third example for us is **Elijah was a man of prayer.**

Elijah knew how to pray. In addition to talking to God Elijah listened for God’s answer.

Elijah prayed for specific things and Elijah expected God to answer his specific request.

Several times we read words like; ***“This is what The Lord God said.”*** (1st Kings 17:1, 2, 5, 14 and 1st Kings 18:1)

In addition Elijah prayed with passion

1st Kings 17:20 and in verse 21 state that Elijah ***“cried out to The Lord.”***

You see you and I will pray with passion and we will pray with expectation if we really believe that Jesus is alive and that Jesus answers our prayers.

James 5:16 tells us; ***“the prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective”.***

Victory comes from prayer.

The fourth example for us is **Elijah learned to depend upon The Lord to provide for his needs**

“The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning and bread and meat in the evening, and he drank from the brook”. (1st Kings 17:6)

Sometimes God works in mysterious ways.

Imagine ravens bringing bread and meat to Elijah every morning and every evening.

Remember raven eat the dead animals.

Remember there was a famine in the whole land so the bread had to come from heaven.

Then in 1st Kings 19 we read that; ***“angels fed Elijah.”***

We also need to remember in John 6:41 Jesus said; ***“I am the bread come down from heaven”.***

You see you and I will learn to depend upon The Lord if we really believe that Jesus is alive today.

The fifth example for us is **Elijah obeyed The Lord.**

After Elijah announced a 3 ½ year drought to King Ahab.

1st Kings 17:2 & 3 tells us *“Then the word of the Lord came to Elijah “Leave here, turn eastward and hide in the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan.*

1st Kings 17:5 **tells us “So he (Elijah) *did what The Lord had told him.*”**

When the stream in the Kerith Ravine dried up, because there had been no rain, The Lord told Elijah **“Go at once to Zarephath in the region of Sidon and stay there.** (1st Kings 17: 9)

Again Elijah obeyed The Lord and went to Zarephath.

You see you and I will obey all of The Lord’s commandments if we really believe that Jesus is alive today.

We can not choose which of The Lord’s commandments we will obey and which of The Lord’s commandments we will ignore.

We are either obedient disciples or we are disobedient disciples.

The sixth example is **Elijah allowed God to use him to perform miracles.**

God used Elijah to raise the widow of Zarephath’s son from the dead.

“Then Elijah 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!” (1st Kings 17: 21)

Please note, Elijah did not bring the Widow of Zarephath’s son widow back to life.

God used Elijah to bring the young boy back to life.

When Elijah prayed God sent fire from heaven (18:35) to burn up the sacrifice, the water in the trench around the sacrifice, and the stones of the alter.

And in 2nd Kings 1 we read; ***So the king sent a third captain with his fifty men. This third captain went up and fell on his knees before Elijah. "Man of God," he begged, "please have respect for my life and the lives of these fifty men, your servants! See, fire has fallen from heaven and consumed the first two captains and all their men. But now have respect for my life!"*** (2nd Kings 1: 13– 14)

You see you and I will pray for The Lord to use us to perform miracles if we really believe that Jesus is alive today.

The seventh example is **Elijah had a passion for doing The Lord's work.**

In 1st King 19:10 Elijah said; ***"I have been very zealous for the Lord God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too."***

We all need to pray for The Lord to use us when we wake up each morning?

Do you volunteer do jobs at the church or do you expect someone else to do them?

What is your relationship with The Lord;

Do you see yourself as The Lord's servant or do you see The Lord as Santa Clause?

You see you and I will be passionate about doing The Lord's work if we really believe that Jesus is alive today.

Serving Jesus The King of Kings and The Lord of Lords is an honor and we should look forward to serving Him everyday..

Elijah was a great prophet and Elijah dedicated his life to serving The Lord.

But The Bible is clear Elijah was not perfect - Elijah was a human.

At times Elijah's faith waived. At times Elijah was afraid and at times Elijah ran away from his responsibility.

At other times Elijah felt like God had abandoned him and Elijah felt like he was the only one who cared about The Lord's work.

In 1st Kings 19:3 we read; *"Elijah was afraid and ran for his life"*.

Then in 1st Kings 19:4 we read; Elijah *"went a day's journey into the wilderness. He came to a broom bush, sat down under it and prayed that he might die."*

We need to remember Elijah was a human being just like you and me. (James 5:17)

But in spite of Elijah's shortcomings Elijah always came through for The Lord because Elijah knew The Lord and Elijah was totally committed to serving The One True Living God.

The reason Elijah is a great role model for me and for you is because we all have a lot in common with Elijah.

At times our faith waivers.

At times we are afraid and sometimes we run away from our responsibilities as Christian witnesses.

At other times we feel like God has abandoned us and we are the only one who care about The Lord's work.

In spite of Elijah's shortcomings Elijah always came through for The Lord because Elijah knew The Lord and Elijah served The One True Living God.

So the questions for each of us today are; *Do you really know The Lord Jesus Christ personally; not just know about Jesus?*

Do you really believe that Jesus is alive today?

Do you really believe Jesus is in total control of all the events in the universe?

Are you totally committed to obeying all of Jesus commandments?

Are you totally committed doing The Lord's work?

God's word to us today challenges each of us to take a serious look at our relationship with The Lord Jesus Christ.

We all need to take a serious look at our commitment to serve The Lord, our obedience to The Lord, and our willingness to let The Lord use us to accomplish His purpose.

AMEN