

# School of Certainty

1 Kings 17:1 – 16

## ✧ Intro

- Time of extreme corruption, total rejection of one true God within northern kingdom – Israel; kingdom Israel divided – Israel to north, Samaria the capital; Judah to south with Jerusalem as capital (events this week moving US Embassy)
- **READ 1 Kings 17:1**; why the Lord led Elijah to stop rain, or any precipitation on the land – **READ 1 Kings 16:29 - 33**
- Not easy time for Elijah as a prophet of God
- Uncertainties in life – new phases of life – good dose of reality; statement – only two things we can be certain of – death and taxes
- What we, the church, and graduates, we can be certain of in our relationship with Jesus Christ, God's Son

## ✧ Certain of His Purpose

- **READ 1 Kings 17:2 - 7**
- God instructs Elijah to go to specific place – brook Cherith, where God will provide for him while the land has no rain; we all can imagine how devastating it would be if we had no rain or any kind of precipitation for an extended period of time
- Elijah had two choices - could “trust and obey” or “doubt and disobey”; could either take his chances and stay where he was, or he could go to the place God had instructed him, where God would provide for him, even though it would be a very lonely place
- To church and graduates – so many times throughout this life we're going to be challenged to either put our faith and trust in the Lord and where He may lead, or to doubt and put our faith and trust in ourselves and remain in our own safe, comfortable place in life
- Graduates, you are going to face many challenges ahead; Church, we've certainly faced many challenges and we'll face more as long as church doors are opened; **Question:** How will we meet those challenges? Trust in God's purpose and obey, or doubt and disobey?
- **v. 7:** See Elijah now faces a challenge even after obeying God's instructions to go - the brook dried up; don't want us to get the wrong idea that if we always trust and obey God we won't face challenges; difference is God is with us through the challenges and will help us overcome – just like He did with Elijah
- God calls Elijah to move again (**READ 1 Kings 17:8 - 11**)
  - Sidon – Jezebel's homeland, her father king over this region; Elijah told to go into hostile territory
  - Told a widow will now supply him with food

- In midst of drought, leads to no food, leads to famine – widow and her son starving, on the last of their food; again, does Elijah “trust and obey” or “doubt and disobey”?; same for widow - “trust and obey” or “doubt and disobey”?
- God has plan, purpose for each person, His greatest purpose is to have a personal relationship with us, and us with Him; Christian life is not all about God’s direction, it’s about the destination, our relationship with Him – the paths God would have us take in life will fall into place as we seek to grow and mature in our relationship with Him through His Son, Jesus Christ – as we learn more and more to trust and obey Him, His plan, His purpose for our lives

### ▲ Certain of His Promises

- **READ 1 Kings 17:12 - 14**
- Remember, most likely widow and her son's last meal; (v. 12) little flour and oil she has left to make bread she’s about to use so that as she says ... *that we may eat it and die*
- (v. 13) Elijah says *Do not fear*; wanting to see if the widow will just trust – difference between Elijah and widow
  - Already seen, Elijah chosen to “trust and obey”
  - Widow’s tendency is to “doubt and disobey”
- (v. 14) ... *what the Lord, the God of Israel, says ...*; the statement - “God said it, I believe it, that settles it”; ... *the flour will not be spent, and the jug of oil will not be empty until ... the Lord sends rain*
- Elijah shares two great promises with the widow from God: He will provide and He will protect (care) for her if ...
  - **Condition: Trust and obey**
  - **John 14:15 (ESV)**  
<sup>15</sup> “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.
  - **John 15:10 (ESV)**  
<sup>10</sup>If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love.
- **Scripture to write down, meditate on (pray back) to strengthen trust and desire to obey**
  - **Hope: Psalm 28:7 (ESV)**  
<sup>7</sup>The LORD is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts, and I am helped; my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him.
  - **Peace: Isaiah 41:10 (ESV)**  
<sup>10</sup>fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.
  - **Assurance: Philippians 4:19 (ESV)**

<sup>19</sup>And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

■ **Encouragement: 2 Timothy 1:12 (ESV)**

<sup>12</sup>... for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that day what has been entrusted to me.

- **God's promises to graduates, to us church – He will provide, protect, care, guide and lead – just trust Him and follow Him in obedience**

★ **Certain of His Provision (Care)**

○ **READ 1 Kings 17:15 - 16**

- **3 things to see from God's provision for Elijah and the widow and her son**

○ **1 – The greatness of God's grace**

■ **2 Corinthians 9:8 (ESV)**

<sup>8</sup>And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. (success, blessings, prosperity – not worldly but spiritually).

- **2 - The greatness of God's love, and God's forgiveness; even when we fail to “trust and obey” and we fall into “doubt and disobedience”, He still loves and will forgive**

■ **Romans 8:35 (ESV)**

<sup>35</sup>Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?

- **3 - The greatness of God's Word – (v. 16) notice the jar of flour or jug of oil never was full, never overflowed – it was just enough at just the right time to meet the need according to God's provision**

- **Sometimes God's provision will overflow – be more than enough, sometimes God's provision will be just enough; but if we continue to “trust and obey” we'll never be lacking**

■ **Psalm 34:9 (ESV)**

<sup>9</sup>Oh, fear the LORD, you his saints, for those who fear him have no lack!

■ **Matthew 6:11 (ESV): Jesus' example of prayer**

<sup>11</sup> Give us this day our daily bread (not more bread than I need at this time, or an overabundance – but a daily supply; trusting God daily)

★ **Close**

- **To graduates, and to us the church ...**

■ **God will lead us to some hard places in life, into unknown territory,**

**He'll lead us to places we may not want to go (fight Him tooth and nail) – at those times will we trust Him and obey, or doubt and disobey?**

- **In a world and a life filled with so many uncertainties, the only things we can be certain of (besides death and taxes) in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and as we trust and obey is God's**

**purposes, God's promises, and God's provision**

- *Trust and obey, for there's no other way, to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey*