

Living With Power in Dark Times (Part 2)

Sunday, September 12, 2021

In this series we will consider the ways in which the lives of Elijah and Elisha show us how to live with power even in dark times

Both faced the difficulties of a culture that had willfully turned its back on God and joyfully engaged in the hedonistic practices of pagan idol worship.

They dealt with a corrupt and self serving leadership that branded them as trouble makers and sought to silence their voices

They endured difficult times brought on by the consequences of sin and God's ensuing judgment which was meant to draw the people back to Himself

They experienced drought, famine, warfare, spiritually deaf ears, hard-heartedness and the growing pervasiveness of blatant immorality.

But in spite of these challenges they lived as victorious vessels through whom God displayed His power and presence.

We too live in dark times And just like Elijah and Elisha, we have the opportunity to display the power of God in the midst of that darkness. In fact that is what we are called to do...

Matthew 5:13-16

13 "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

14 "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. **15** Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. **16 In the same way, let your light shine before others,** that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Acts 1:8

8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Last week we said that **Living with power in dark days** means **TAKING A STAND FOR TRUTH**. They (Elijah and Elisha) took a stand for truth and so must we...

- **KNOW** the truth
 - There is only one God
 - God controls all things
 - The ways of this world are sinful and out of alignment with God's ways
 - Gods ways are the only right ways
 - That He wants to get our attention
- We must **PROCLAIM** the truth (with our mouths and our lives)
- We must be willing to **PAY THE COST** of truth

1 Kings 17:2-24

2 Then the word of the Lord came to Elijah: **3** “Leave here, turn eastward and hide in the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan. **4** You will drink from the brook, and I have directed the ravens to supply you with food there.”

5 So he did what the Lord had told him. He went to the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan, and stayed there. **6** The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning and bread and meat in the evening, and he drank from the brook.

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.”

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.”

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.’”

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.

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?”

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!”

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.”

They TRUSTED God for PROVISION

Proverbs 3:5-6

5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; **6** in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

- Trust in the Lord (Not man, not money, not anything but God)
- Lean not on your own understanding (It's so easy to begin leaning, even if just a bit on our own understanding)
- Open up doors that no man can shut
- Kids (raise them in the way they should go)
- Family
- Meet your needs (all your needs according to his glorious riches)
- Sustain you in your walk with him (given you everything you need)
- Give you Direction
- Take care of you
- Bring victory over the plans of the enemy to defeat you
- Be with you always

- Trust that God will provide for your needs
 - Different than wants
 - Allow God to define what we need
 - He knows before we ask (Matthew 6:8)
 - Sometimes we don't even know what we need

Luke 12:22-31

²² Then Jesus said to his disciples: “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. ²³ For life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. ²⁴ Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds! ²⁵ Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life^[a]? ²⁶ Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest?

²⁷ “Consider how the wild flowers grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. ²⁸ If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith! ²⁹ And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. ³⁰ For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them. ³¹ But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.

Psalms 37:25

²⁵ I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread.

- Trust that He will provide even when we experience the harsh realities of the consequences of the sinful choices of others

Hebrews 13:5-6

⁵ ...because God has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.” ⁶ So we say with confidence, “The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?”

- Trust in God's provision even when it looks different than you expected

Psalm 37:5 ESV

Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and he will act.

- Trust God for provision when things suddenly change
- Trust God for provision even when His directions don't make sense
- Trust God to provide when things seem impossible

Luke 18:27

²⁷Jesus replied, "What is impossible with man is possible with God."

- Trust God to provide when everything completely falls apart

Romans 4:18-21

¹⁸Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, "So shall your offspring be."^[a] ¹⁹Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah's womb was also dead. ²⁰Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, ²¹being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised.