

## **MISTRESS OF THE HOUSE**

Last time we met, Elijah had met the Widow of Zarephath and had informed her he was the prophet of Israel sent by God to stay with her.

The Widow informed Elijah that she was picking up sticks to go home and eat her last meal with her only son and die because of the drought crisis. Elijah informed her that if she shared that meal with him, she would always have food in her home if the drought lasted.

So, the Widow invited Elijah to stay at her home (hospitality). **Read her test-i-mony in 1 Kings 17:15-16.** Note that the Widow would never have had this testimony without the drought crisis test.

- What test-i-mony are we spiritually getting out this Covid-19 test?
- Our prayer of thanksgiving should include our test-i-mony of specific ways God showed His faithfulness and grace.
- Note these words: “So she went and did according to **word of Elijah.**” (17:15) “According to the **word of the Lord which He spoke through Elijah.**” (17:16)
- Was God faithful to do what He promised through Elijah (Rom.4:21) Before you say YES, read 1 Kings 17:15-16 again)?

Both Elijah and the Widow had test-i-monies from the drought crisis.

- What was God looking for in Zarephath that He could not find in Israel with Elijah?
- What was God trying to get from her and Elijah spiritually? (Luke 4:16-30) (Read Luke 4:24-26).
- What test-i-mony was He trying to get from the Gentile Widow? (17:24)
- What **one thing** is God trying to get from all mankind (2 Pet.3:9; Rom.5:8; 1 Tim.1:15)?
  - Missionary Ambassador Evangelism (2 Cor.5:17-21)

**We will study four aspects of this special title given to the Widow of Zarephath, “Mistress of the house.”**

### **1. The Widow of Zarephath had a special title from Baal worship listed in today’s lesson - “The Mistress (baalah) of the House (habayith). (17:17)**

This is not the Hebrew word for mistress used with Sarah and Hagar (gebereth) (Gen.16:8-9) This word means “The lady of the house”.

This is a Hebrew word used with **sorcery and witchcraft**. Baalah was used with King Saul inquiry with the **Witch of Endor** (1 Sam.28:7). What makes this title important is the witchcraft of necromancy or contact with the dead. (Prophet Samuel) (1 Sam.28:15-19).

She could contact the dead with divine permission (Job 1-2). But she did not have the power to raise the dead. This is important to this story and the subject of next week’s lesson

### **2. I am using a quote from Jesus - “Truly, truly I say unto you (Listen carefully to truth).”**

The testimony from our lesson text might seem harder than the others. But it was easier - “Whom will you serve, God or mammon (Baal)? Which God is real in your life?

“**No one can serve two masters**; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. **You cannot serve God and mammon.**” (note contrast of choices: Love and hate; devote and despise; **serve** God or Baal. (Rom.12:2} [Do not conform but be transformed].

This is true for us during this Covid-19 crisis. God matches spiritual testing to our spiritual growth capacity (1 Cor.10:11-13).

### **3. Whatever crisis God sends our way is intended to bring a spiritual awaking in our personal relationship with the Lord. This was true for both Elijah and the Widow.**

Our lesson contains **the third test** for Elijah (brook, Widow, and now the death of Widow’s son) It is also the third test for the Widow (prior command to take care of His prophet, actual taking care; and now death of her son).

It is interesting how God interrupts our lives in different ways to bring us into a spiritual awaking to His Directive Will (**Rom.8:28-31; 1 Cor.7:35**).

The first two tests got her attention; but it did not draw her into a personal relationship with the One and Only True God in Christ (John 3:14-16; 14:6).

Previous tests were important to bringing her into personal reality of (positive volition) to God-consciousness as a Gentile.

#### **She is religious, but spiritually lost!**

She does not realize the impact of spiritual death in time or the second death in eternity (Rom.5:12; Rev.20:14-15) (like Jewish Nicodemus) (John 3:1-21).

The reason positive volition at God-consciousness is important is because it leads to gospel hearing.

(2 Thess.1:8) “Dealing out retribution **to those who do not know God** and **to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.**” note the link between “to those who” (Rom.1:14-16)

- While Elijah went to Zarephath seeking a Widow to supply his logistical grace needs, God was seeking the Widow to supply her spiritual salvation grace needs (Eph.2:8-9).
- In all three tests, both Elijah and the Widow experienced God proving Himself faithful to His word –
  - “God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord (**1 Cor.1:9; Rom.4:21**).”

**THEY WILL NEED IT IN THE THIRD TEST.**