

**Intro:** Darlene and were dating, over at her house for dinner: Friend of brother in Navy: Ask my advice: Reup?

I know what God wants me to do...but I'm afraid! I told God: If you take my fear away...I will sign up!

*You have it backward, FIRST you Obey...and TRUST that God will honor your obedience!*

Today continue our series on "The Whisper Of The King" But First

1 Kings 17:8-24

## **1. Obedience Precedes Observation!**

Vs 8-10

Look at the pattern in the Scripture: 3 Parts

- Command: Arise and Go Lit = "Get up and go to Zarapath"
- Obedience: He went Lit = "Got up and went" EXACTLY SAME TWO WORDS!
- Sight: He saw! Lit = "Got to gate...a widow"

EVERYTHING ABOUT THIS STORY SPEAKS OF OBEDIENCE ON ELIJAH'S PART!

- Elijah had to be obedient to God BEFORE saw the widow. If he wasn't obedient, never see promised provision
- Elijah could not see the widow from where He was...she was 85 to 100 miles away: Yet HE WENT THERE!
- God said to Him: *"I have appointed a widow there to provide for you Elijah...Go and get your provision!"*
  - ~Elijah had to BELIEVE: Believe enough to leave a place of blessing and safety Totally on God's word
  - ~Elijah had to OBEY: Had to step out and obey when He couldn't see the end result TRUST
  - ~Elijah had to PERSEVERE: Had to keep on walking! 30 hours walking time 3 to 4 days! Not give up
- Elijah had to be OBEDIENT and ASK help of someone that didn't look like they could even help themselves!
  - ~Probably expecting a person of wealth and means
  - ~Last thing he was looking for was a destitute widow with a son and NO FOOD! BROKE; DEPENDANT SON!
  - ~Yet, in OBEDIENCE Elijah asks He for the help that from everything he can see she simply cannot provide
  - ~And better yet...SHE DIDN'T THINK SHE COULD HELP HIM EITHER!

Here is what I want you to see. Faith comes BEFORE Sight! OBEDIENCE PRECEDES OBSERVATION!

**\*\*\*You have to DO what God says BEFORE you RECEIVE What God PROMISES!\*\*\***

*(Say It: I must do what God says Before I receive what God promises!)*

**ILLUS:** Heb 11:1-13 READ FROM SCREEN

Every great man and woman of faith walked the path of Obedience in Faith BEFORE they say the promise realized:  
You and I are no different...We have to walk the same way: Hear the Whisper of the King: Stepping out in Obedience

**\*\*\*You have to DO what God says BEFORE you RECEIVE What God PROMISES!\*\*\***

*(Say It: I must do what God says Before I receive what God promises!)*

## **2. OBEDIENCE PRECEDES BLESSING!**

Vs 11-16

Faith and Obedience are EVERYWHERE in this story. Elijah has to have faith...and the Widow has to have faith!

- Bring me some water: (WHY IS ELIJAH HERE? Remember?) DROUGHT! Precious commodity!
- Despite seeing her condition: And bring me a Little Bread! (morsel) Just a little bit! Scarce!
- Her reply: *I only have enough for one FINAL meal for my son and I...and then we will die!*
- Look at Elijah's FAITH! Speaking to a destitute, starving, hopeless widow with NO RESOURCES!
  - ~Don't be Afraid (Elijah could say that because He had been the recipient of God's provision! Ravens)
  - ~Do what you planned:
  - ~BUT FIRST! Make something for Me! Before you feed your son...before you feed yourself... Honor God! If you REALLY believe I serve the Living God...Prove it!
  - ~And then Elijah makes this OUTRAGEOUS PROMISE! Flour not run out, Oil not run dry: God Provide!
  - ~And SHE did...and GOD DID! Day after Day after Day after Day: Some say up to 3 years...God Provided!
- KEY: BUT FIRST! And that is where you and I get in trouble: Because we are Afraid: God Gets our LEFTOVERS...not our First and Our Best! We take care of US...Then if any left: God!
  - ~Left over time: Family, Sports, Vacation, Worshipping God is often an afterthought: Not First
  - ~Left over Energy: Tired from Work, Tired from Sports, Tired From Activities: No energy to serve God
  - ~Left over Talent: Job gets our best; or our Hobbies, Activities, Sports...God...If anything left...Gets that
  - ~Left over Money: After I get my new car, next boat, take that special vacation, everything else: LEFT?

**\*\*\*You have to DO what God says BEFORE you RECEIVE What God PROMISES!\*\*\***

*(Say It: BUT FIRST I must do what God says Before I receive what God promises!)*

ILLUS: 2 Chronicles 16:9

God is looking today...for some people who are willing...ready...eager to Obey...and see true Victory!

### 3. Obedience Precedes Spiritual Victory!

Vs 12, 24

Here is the best part of the story!

~It's not the bread

~It's not the oil

~It's not Elijah's obedience...or the Widow's obedience

~It's not even the son being brought back to physical life

It is the CHANGE OF HEART of the Widow:

Compare: Vs 12: The Lord YOUR God

Vs 24: Now I KNOW...you are a man of God...and you speak the TRUTH of the Lord God!

SHE BELIEVED!

In his very first sermon Jesus pointed to the widow as an example of FAITH!

The miracle of the story isn't the bread or the oil...it is the widow having faith in the Lord God of Israel!

And that happened...as a result of Obedience...

**\*\*\*You have to DO what God says BEFORE you RECEIVE What God PROMISES!\*\*\***

*(Say It: I must do what God says Before I receive what God promises!)*

Who are YOU praying for to come to faith right now?

~Family Member?

~CoWorker

~Someone at School

~Friend?

~Neighbor

~Someone at store, gas station, restaurant

### CONCL:

- Since Obedience Precedes Observation, I have to ask you today:  
What is God calling you to leave today?  
~Blessing that is done?  
~Hurts that hold you back?  
~Safety no longer real?  
~Where is He leading you? What future is He calling you to?  
~Don't wait! Start walking! Leave Past  
**YOU HAVE TO DO WHAT HE SAYS BEFORE YOU RECEIVE WHAT HE PROMISES!**
- Since Obedience Precedes Blessing, I have to ask you today:  
Where is God calling you to put Him First?  
~Time: Need to step up and start serving? (Needs with 2 yr old, Needs with Students, Needs Group Ldrs)  
~Talent: Do you need to start using the abilities God has blessed you with to serve Him and Others  
You say...I don't have much...Just a LITTLE BIT OF TALENT: Widow just had a little bit of flour:  
When she gave it to God first...He blessed it and multiplied it!  
~Finances: Are you missing God's blessing because you have Him LAST in your finances and not first!  
Haggai 1:5-9 Return to Land of Israel: Time to rebuild Temple...Started...never finished...Got busy

Who is in need of the Blessing ONLY YOU can provide...which is coming from YOUR Obedience!

Like we said last week, Somewhere out there is a "widow" in need...spiritually destitute..Hopeless

And when YOU obey God...DO what He tells YOU to do...You become their blessing!

But if you don't move...If you don't obey...If you don't step out in faith...You BOTH miss Blessing of God!

- Since Obedience Precedes Spiritual Victory  
Who are you asking God to use YOU to reach?  
Who are you praying for?  
Who are you reaching out to, telling about Jesus, Inviting to Church...

**YOU HAVE TO BE OBEDIENT...LIKE ELIJAH...YOU HAVE TO DO YOUR PART...TO SEE VICTORY  
STARTS DOWN HERE ON YOUR KNEES...PRAYING FOR THEM..."Oh God...Give them Life!" REAL LIFE!**