

“4 Things Only True of the Real God” // *Something Better* #2 // 1 Kings 17:8–24

Introduction:

“If dependence is the objective; weakness is an advantage.” (If the goal is for God to make you dependent on him, then sometimes he makes you weak so that you will be in a position where you will learn to depend on him.)

If you remember, the stories of Elijah go back and forth between what God is doing in the world through Elijah to what God is doing in Elijah to prepare him for those things, and last week we saw that what God was doing was getting Elijah in a place where he was totally dependent on God.

So he weakened him; he removed his strength and his ability to provide for himself, so that Elijah would be totally dependent on God, which would be the place from which Elijah’s greatest power would flow.

- And I explained to you that that is what God is doing to many of you; you’ve suffered a setback in your job or maybe in your health; you feel powerless in your parenting or in your marriage; or you feel unsuccessful in your ministry; these things are divinely ordained to teach you to depend on God, so that you can be strong not in yourself but in God.
- Because then the power of God is able to flow through you, and when the world looks at you they don’t see a person who has it all together that they are *impressed with*; they see someone mighty in the power and grace of God, which they can *benefit from*.

So, we pick up there this week, as God continues to take Elijah to school, preparing him for his epic battle with the false god ba’al on top of Mt. Carmel (*remember, scholars point out that all stories in Elijah’s life revolve around that mountaintop, leading to it or from it—we’ll look at it next week*) and what you’re going to see this week is that God teaches Elijah a few very important things about himself, things that separate him from every false god.

And what God shows him about himself is going to answer a question that a lot of you struggle with:

- In fact, I know that there are some listening to me who have lost your faith. If that’s you, let me ask you this: *When did you lose your faith? What were the circumstances?*
- For others, *When did you almost lose your faith?* (most Christians have gone through this)

Chances are it had something to do with not understanding why God didn’t show up to help you or somebody else when you thought he should—why he didn’t change something, fix something.

- *What God does in this passage is show Elijah 4 things about himself that address that.*

Most people that lose their faith lose faith in a false god, or in a false projection of God. They’ll explain to me why they don’t believe in God anymore and then they’ll describe to me the god they don’t believe in and I’ll say, “Well, I don’t believe in that god, either.”

But, let’s get into this story.

1 Kings 17:8-24 ESV

If you remember, God picked a fight with evil king Ahab and his pet god ba'al by drying up the rain—ba'al specialized in being the rainmaker, and God said through Elijah, "From this day forward, it will not rain except by the word of Elijah."

Well, God puts Elijah by a secret brook called Cherith and feeds him there through a fleet of courier ravens, to teach Elijah to depend on him, but then God dries the brook up and tells Elijah to go to Sidon, which is Jezebel's hometown, because there he's got a widow through whom he's going to provide for him.

- BTW, how scary is this for Elijah?
- Elijah is a wanted man, and God tells him to walk alone 100 miles through enemy territory to his enemy's hometown!
- Elijah's got no food, he's got no job; his pet raven's heads have fallen off, and now he's out walking unprotected on his enemy's home turf.

[10] ... And when he came to the gate of the city, he saw a widow gathering sticks, and he asked her, "Would you please bring me a little water in a cup?" ¹¹ As she was going to get it, he called to her, "Bring me a bite of bread, too."

¹² But she said, "I swear by the LORD your God that I don't have a single piece of bread in the house. And I have only a handful of flour left in the jar and a little cooking oil in the bottom of the jug. I was just gathering a few sticks to cook this last meal, and then my son and I will die."

¹³ But Elijah said to her, "Don't be afraid! Go ahead and do just what you've said, but make a little bread for me first. Then use what's left to prepare a meal for yourself and your son. ¹⁴ For this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: There will always be flour and olive oil left in your containers until the time when the LORD sends rain and the crops grow again!"

¹⁵ So she did as Elijah said, and she and Elijah and her family continued to eat for many days. ¹⁶ There was always enough flour and olive oil left in the containers, just as the LORD had promised through Elijah.

So, lesson learned, right? God is able to infinitely supply us in any circumstance, even in a drought in the middle of an enemy village. Ba'al can't even take care of his own hometown; God can take care of just Elijah in the middle of Ba'al's territory.

"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for thou art with me. Your rod and your staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table for me in the presence of mine enemies; you anoint my head with oil, my cup runneth over."

The story really ought to end here, but it goes on.

¹⁷ Some time later the woman's son became sick. He grew worse and worse, and finally he died. ¹⁸ Then she said to Elijah, "O man of God, what have you done to me? Have you come here to point out my sins and kill my son?"

¹⁹ But Elijah replied, "Give me your son." And he took the child's body from her arms, carried him up the stairs to the room where he was staying, and laid the body on his bed. ²⁰ Then Elijah cried out to the LORD, "O LORD my God, why have you brought tragedy to this widow who has opened her home to me, causing her son to die?"

²¹ And he stretched himself out over the child three times and cried out to the LORD, "O LORD my God, please let this child's life return to him." ²² The LORD heard Elijah's prayer, and the life of the child

returned, and he revived! ²³ Then Elijah brought him down from the upper room and gave him to his mother. “Look!” he said. “Your son is alive!”

²⁴ Then the woman told Elijah, “Now I know for sure that you are a man of God, and that the LORD truly speaks through you.”

Four things we see in this story about the true God—things that make the Christian God different from every other god—whether that’s ba’al or the other ‘gods’ people worship today. Don’t be a religious bigot and say that all religions look the same. That’s like saying that everybody from another race looks the same. That just means you don’t know anyone from another race personally and don’t care that much about them. Don’t be a religious bigot, either. At least consider what God is demonstrating is different about himself and every other god.

1. The true God is a God of the outsider

- Of all the places that God could have sent Elijah to do these miracles—and provide in this famine, he sent him to a pagan, widowed woman in an enemy city.
- Do you know what the first sermon Jesus ever preached was? It was a sermon about Elijah, and specifically about this story:

“But in truth, I tell you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heavens were shut up three years and six months, and a great famine came over all the land, [26] and Elijah was sent to none of them but only to Zarephath, in the land of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow.” **Luke 4:25**

- The famine had affected all in Israel, but the only one that Elijah was sent to rescue, was a pagan, widowed, woman in Ba’al’s home state.
- This truth made the Israelite leaders so mad they tried to kill Jesus after his first sermon.
 - After my first sermon everyone in my church came up and patted me on my back and told me they were proud of me and my parents took me out for ice cream. After Jesus’ first sermon they tried to throw him off a cliff, because of the subject matter.
- **God is a God of the outsider.** Every other religion focuses on God rewarding the insider.
 - This woman was an **outsider in just about every possible way**: she’s a Gentile, which makes her a racial outsider, a pagan, which makes her a **religious outsider**; a woman, which makes her a **gender outsider**; and a widow, which makes her an **economic outsider**.¹
- This past Christmas, I pointed out to you some things about Jesus’ genealogy:
 - Matthew opens up his Gospel with Jesus’ genealogy, which when we read it, we are tempted to just skip, but in those days, a genealogy functioned something like a **resume**.
 - When you were trying to establish your right to rule, you would do so by listing all the famous people in your bloodline so that people could see that awesomeness was just in your blood. Earthly kings, like Herod, were even known to delete from their bloodline people who were shady.
 - But when you read Jesus’ genealogy in Matthew 1 you find that not only does it not hide those whose lives were filled with dysfunction and shame; it **celebrates them**.
 - It includes all these **women** (which were never included in genealogies those days)... and not just women, but women with **significant scars**. Every woman listed in Jesus’ genealogy was tainted with some kind of *sexual scandal*.
 - **Rahab**. a prostitute and a Gentile that God saved from Jericho. **Ruth**. A Moabite. **Bathsheba**, who committed adultery with David.
 - These woman all repented, and came back to God, but their lives were checkered by mistakes and shame.

¹ Tim Keller, “A Widow’s Joy,” 1 Kings 17:7–24

- I told you that their names are included in the line that leads *to Christ so that we can know that our names can be included in the line that leads from Christ.*²
 - In Jesus' genealogy, father Abraham is mentioned in the same list as the prostitute Rahab because *"In Jesus Christ, prostitute and king sit down as equals."*³
- That means no matter **who you are** or what you've done, there is **room in his family** for you.
 - You may feel like an **outcast**. You're not. He came for you. You may feel **worthless**. You're not. He purchased you with his blood, the **universe's most valuable possession**.
- In every other religion God favors, and rewards the insiders. God loves us and accepts us because we keep the rules... but the true God reaches out for the outsider, because the true religion is not about our ability to earn God's favor; it is about God's gracious love in bestowing it, as a gift. *Blessed are the poor in spirit!*
 - If you feel like an outsider, that's actually an advantage. It makes you a perfect candidate for salvation... Weakness is an advantage.
- *"There were many widows in the days of Elijah,"* Jesus said, *"but Elijah was only sent to a pagan one in Jezebel's hometown."* And when he said that it made the Israelites so mad that they tried to throw Jesus off of a cliff, because they, like every religion, want a God who favors the insiders. A god who rewards them for their goodness; their superiority.
 - This reminds me of another woman Jesus went to in Samaria... 5 husbands. The disciples wanted to avoid the area, but Jesus said, "That's where I need to go."
 - That's still where Jesus pursues people today. Outside.
- And, btw, if you know God, that means you become a friend to the outsider. If you understand the gospel, your life is characterized by reaching out to those on the outside; not by simply hanging out with the saved.
 - Gut check question: *How many unsaved people are on your prayer list? That you pray for daily?*
 - *If God answered all the prayers you prayed last week, how many new people would be in the kingdom today?*
 - How many unbelievers are you engaged with—you have their numbers in your phone so you could text them and invite them to go out for coffee?
 - Are you involved here helping reach out to those outside our normal circles—the refugee, the prisoner; the homeless?
- A little insight: This woman came to know God because a weirdo entered her life. Elijah just showed up and asked some pretty forward questions. A weirdo.
 - Some of you (who aren't Christians) have been engaged by a weirdo recently—it may be divine.
 - To you, Summit members—**be that weirdo!**

[8] Then the word of the LORD came to him, [9] "Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. Behold, I have commanded a widow there to feed you." There is a certain weirdness to being a Christian. You show in strange places, pursuing strange relationships with people who can't figure out why you are there. *Some of you are just weird people; I'm not talking about that. I'm talking about being weird for this reason, because you choose to dwell in places and with people that aren't natural.*

- 85 people show up at our prison ministry meeting
- 46 total who are living on our *GoUrban* projects in downtown Durham and Raleigh—uprooted from one area and moved into another.

² From David Platt's sermon on Matthew 1:1-17, "The King and His Kingdom."

³ From Tim Keller's sermon.

- In the last couple of years Summit families have adopted 67 children from around the world as a part of that initiative, with another 32 families in the pipeline!

2. The true God is a God who sometimes contradicts and confuses us

- The woman's son dies, and she is confronted by a tragedy. But watch how she responds. She doesn't know why God let this happen, she says, "Is it because of my past sins?"
- Elijah is a prophet of God; a theologian; seminary graduate. He has the same questions.
- So he goes up to God and says, "God, I don't get it! Can you help this woman?"
- Notice what they don't do—they don't blame God (the woman fully acknowledges her sinfulness and God has every right to do it); nor do they try to explain it away with an easy answer. (Turns out it was not because of her sin, but because of a battle between God and Yahweh.) Nor does Elijah promise her that if she'll just love and believe God she'll never have any pain in her life.
- They just go to God, asking for help, appealing to his mercy.
- The true God is a god who sometimes blows your mind—does things you don't understand and can't explain. Gives rules and instructions that you don't understand, sometimes that morally offend you.
- If God doesn't do that, chances are you don't really know God, you only know a projection of your imagination.
 - *Stepford Wives*: Tim Keller talks about a "Stepford god." A god who feels just the way you do about moral issues; who never offends and challenges you or confuses you, that's not a real God; it's a "Stepford god."
 - *A god who conforms to your mind is usually a projection of your mind.*
- One of the ways I know God is the true God is I have so many unanswered questions! Who would have made this up?
 - If I invented a God, he would always reward the righteous and take care of the people I like. But here is God, acting in ways even a prophet cannot understand, and going to outsiders!
 - Doing things and you say, "What?"
- This is a great picture of true faith.
 - When some people suffer, they assume that means God just doesn't care. Cynical about God. If they keep believing at all.
 - Or they rage against God. How dare you?
 - Others turn God into some kind of genie that will always heal and bless if you just show enough faith.
 - And that works until it doesn't, which is why I know a lot people in churches that preach that message who have lost their faith because God lets their son die and they said, "But I did everything right! I named it, claimed it; confessed every known sin; thanked God in advance for the answer," and he still died.
 - True faith is what you see here: they come to God with submission and humility, unanswered questions, but knowing God is full of compassion.
- *If you know the true God, you will have a humble faith.* You believe that God cares, that he can and wants to heal—that he's good, full of compassion and love; but you are humble enough to trust him if he doesn't.
 - *Are either of those untrue of you?*
 - Not humble? W/out faith? Spurgeon (?)

3. The true God has power over death

- The one thing Ba'al could not touch was death. The true God has power over death.
- This is where all the world's would-be-saviors fall short.
- A lot of things out in our world promise salvation.
 - Religions: Buddha. Mohammad.

- Political leaders do it: **Hitler** boasted that he was the savior of the world, claiming that his 3rd Reich would last 1000 years. **Lenin** said the same thing. Both men are dead.
 - **Freud** boasted that with his theories modern man would have no more need for Jesus—psychotherapy would replace man’s need for God. The one thing psychotherapy has proven unable to deal with, though, is our fear of death, we can manage guilt or stress, but we can’t escape our fear of death, which is one of the most driving fears that we have. And for that reason a recent *Time* magazine article said that psychotherapy itself has had such a poor track record that it was itself on the couch in need of psychotherapy.⁴
 - None of these salvations deal with death:
 - I remember hearing the tragic story of an elderly woman who years ago in California panicked as she saw her 2 year old granddaughter fall into the deep end of the pool. The grandmother herself did not know how to swim, but in her desperation she jumped in. A few hours later they pulled out both bodies.
 - The would be savior has the same problem as the one she’s trying to save.
 - Many people think of money as a Savior: can’t help me beyond death.
 - Beauty. Preserve. Me at my appointment. “We can tell you where fat is stored on your body.” No more talking please.
 - You can slow the aging process down a little bit, but you can’t stop it .You can **nip** it. **Tuck** it. **Tighten** it. **Tan** it; **tweak** it; **tat** it; **puff** it; **twist** it; **lift** it; **color** it. Whatever. It’s just getting older; saggier; flimsier. It’s dying. Is that the place you’ve built your hope?
 - Can your God carry you beyond the grave?
- God is here showing to Elijah, and to Israel, that he has power to do something on other god can do. Raise from the dead.
 - BTW, right after the sermon in Luke 4, when Jesus mentions Elijah, he goes to raise the son of a widow from the dead.
 - There is no other god who has gone to the grave to conquer it.
 - *Before I move on to our final point, 4*, I want to point out one other thing: think about how confusing this whole thing was for the woman as she went along.
 - Elijah shows up and she’s starving. Rather than meeting her need immediately, he asks her for something.
 - Then, after the whole deal is over, and she’s learned the lesson to trust God, her son dies.
 - **God has a bigger agenda** than meeting her felt need: Her **greatest need** is to come to **know and trust God**, the Lord of life.
 - Do you ever get frustrated with God that he doesn’t get you into the school, get you into the relationship, provide you with the job; heal you like you want?
 - What if God had a bigger agenda—a better one: to bring you to know a God bigger than all of life; a God so big and so glorious that even if you and your son die of starvation you have a hope that goes beyond the grave?
 - Knowing God is better than multiplied oil or even a temporarily resurrected son. I say temporarily because... anyone know this guy? You think he still lives in Zarephath? Eventually he died. Every earthly blessing bestowed here is temporary; knowing God and the resurrection is eternal.
 - If your bread multiplies and your son lives that lasts only for a moment; and if it runs dry and he dies that also is only for a moment; but if you and your son come to know God and the power of the resurrection, that is a blessing that will persevere throughout the longest days of eternity.
 - **(Heb 11)** both groups died in faith, having received the fullness of the promise. The fullness of the promise is not a temporarily raised son; it’s knowing the God of the resurrection.

⁴ Erwin Lutzer, *God, Yes, but Jesus?*, pt. 2 MP3

4. The True God Saves Through Death

This final scene is really mysterious.

- Elijah puts the dead boy in his own bed. Elijah stretches over the boy 3 times.
- *What is this?*
 - Stretching over the boy is a position of vulnerability
 - What I thought of... Jesus describing Peter's crucifixion to him. You will stretch out your hands and be helpless.
 - And he has put him into his own bed—that is in his own place!
 - And then lays on top of him, as if absorbing death into his body. What I thought of here: *Green Mile*.
- This is the *first* account in the Bible, btw, of someone actually being raised from the dead.⁵ And don't miss: **the account begins with the question, "Is my son dying for my sins?"** and God's answer is "No, he is not, and he cannot." And then he has his representative stretch out over the boy's dead body, taking, as it were, death into himself, so that the boy will live.
- How will God save the world? By dying in our place for our sins, stretching himself out and absorbing our death into himself.

God saved us through death. And, let me add, he continues to work the power of his salvation in us through our death.

- False gods always promise to save around death—if you obey me, and make me happy, I will prosper you. That's different than the Christian hope.
- Many so-called Christian preachers say: Obey God, and he'll enrich you. BMW. Healing. Prosperity in your job.
 - And sometimes he does that. But what they omit is that the channel of God's blessing is often death and weakness.
- Are you experiencing a kind of death? That's not a sign of God's judgment. It means that God is working the power of the resurrection in you.
 - If you're weak, it's an opportunity to depend on him.
 - If you're headed to the grave in pain, it's an opportunity to hope in him and demonstrate to everyone that you have a hope that goes beyond the grave.
 - If you're experiencing the cross; it's a chance for God to pour out the power of the resurrection.
- God saved the world through an innocent man dying in weakness.
- If he's going to bring that power into your life, into your family and our world, he won't do it just through our strength; he will also do it through our death, our weakness.
- So again, Paul says, rejoice in your weakness. When you experience the fellowship of his sufferings, you can walk in the power of his resurrection.

- BTW, the word "Zarephath" comes from a Hebrew word meaning, "to melt," or "smelt." In noun form, it means "crucible."
- Zarephath is the place of the cross. It is also the first place God ever raised someone from the dead. The two always go together.
- No cross; no resurrection.
- So when you experience a cross; rejoice, because that's when God's resurrection power is close by.

Conclusion:

⁵ Swindoll, 64.

The true God is a God who brings in the outsider; who sometimes contradicts and confuses us, and who saves through death.

- False gods are the opposite. They favor the insider; conform to all our prejudices, and save through prosperity.

The true God meets us in our weakness; false gods reward for us our strengths.

Last thing: The woman has to show a particular kind of faith. She sees just a little, and has to believe.

- Some of you are like this woman, and God has been speaking to you... inviting you to follow him. But you have questions.
 - I'm not saying check your brain at the door, but there are times when you have to take that first step of faith to see the rest.
- Christianity is not **"see' fully and then believe,"** but **"see a little, believe and then see the rest for an eternity."**
 - So you have questions, I realize. But do you believe Jesus rose from the dead? Trust him! and take that first step.
 - Trusting Jesus when you don't have all your questions answered leads to understanding.
 - Fides quarens intellectum
- And this same principle works for the rest of your life: surrendering to the ways of God precedes the blessing of God.
 - Singleness: Gaynor
 - Kevin C: preg with Hannah. (Phenomenon of people getting pregnant when they enter adoption.)
 - Careful: Not a promise of that blessing. Sometimes you get more of God, and that is better.
 - Just that faith precedes God's blessing.

Bullpen:

- Maybe you won't get your son raised. This story points to **something better**. Heb 11—all of God's great prophets, including this one, died in faith, not having received the fullness of the promise, God having something better for them, and for us. God had something *better* for this woman than having her son raised—knowing the God was Lord over life!
- Many of you are at the place where you need to show that first step of faith. Then see what God does.
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- Some of you are like this woman, and God has been speaking to you... inviting you to follow him. But you have questions.
 - I'm not saying check your brain at the door, but Jesus said that willingness to follow truth wherever it usually leads precedes the discovery of truth. John 7:17
 - A theologian 1500 years ago called the Christian experience: *Fides quarens intellectum*.
 - Again, not checking your brain at the door, but knowing when to take that first step of faith.
 - Christianity is not “**see' fully and then believe,**” but “**see a little, believe and then see the rest over an eternity.**”
 - You have questions, I realize. But do you believe Jesus rose from the dead? Trust him! Trusting Jesus when you don't have all your questions answered leads to understanding.
 - Many of you are at the place where you need to show that first step of faith. Then see what God does.

Have you learned to think this way?

- ~~Where has God made you weak right now? These are chances for you to experience the true God.~~
- ~~Do you notice all 4 of those things go along with our thesis from last week: *that God's strength is found in our weakness?*
 - ~~He goes for the outsider;~~
 - ~~he sometimes contradicts and confuses us by making us weak;~~
 - ~~and he saves through death?~~~~
- ~~Have you found God in your weakness?
 - ~~Starts with salvation: you realize you are guilty in your sin with no way to save yourself. God saved you by dying on a cross in your place, and you come to him acknowledging that and receiving his free grace as a gift. Have you done that?~~
 - ~~Have you learned to walk with God through your weakness and confusion? Trusting him when life takes unexpected turns, and you go through unexpected weakness—or when your son is sick or dies?~~~~
- ~~“Can't be reduced to finite understanding”
 - but Jesus said that willingness to follow truth wherever it usually leads precedes the discovery of truth. John 7:17~~
- A theologian 1500 years ago called the Christian experience: *Fides quarens intellectum*. Again, not checking your brain at the door, but
- Tim Keller: “*Unless you have the true God, you're going to go back and forth between romanticism and cynicism.*”

Jesus' line includes moral outsiders; ethnic outsiders (Gentiles); gender outsiders (women), which is supposed to send you a message: Jesus came for the outcast.⁶

- Elijah ignored her felt needs and went right for something bigger

I told you last week that the main thrust of Elijah's life is determining which God is the true God. You are going to see 3

And he called to her and said, "Bring me a little water in a vessel, that I may drink." [11] And as she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, "Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand." [12] And she said, "As the LORD your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. And now I am gathering a couple of sticks that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it and die."

[13] And Elijah said to her, "Do not fear; go and do as you have said. But first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterward make something for yourself and your son. [14] For thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, "The jar of flour shall not be spent, and the jug of oil shall not be empty, until the day that the LORD sends rain upon the earth."

[15] And she went and did as Elijah said. And she and he and her household ate for many days. [16] The jar of flour was not spent, neither did the jug of oil become empty, according to the word of the LORD that he spoke by Elijah.

The story really ought to end here, but it goes on.

[17] After this the son of the woman, the mistress of the house, became ill. And his illness was so severe that there was no breath left in him.

[18] And she said to Elijah, "What have you against me, O man of God? You have come to me to bring my sin to remembrance and to cause the death of my son!" [19] And he said to her, "Give me your son." And he took him from her arms and carried him up into the upper chamber where he lodged, and laid him on his own bed. [20] And he cried to the LORD, "O LORD my God, have you brought calamity even upon the widow with whom I sojourn, by killing her son?"

[21] Then he stretched himself upon the child three times and cried to the LORD, "O LORD my God, let this child's life come into him again." [22] And the LORD listened to the voice of Elijah. And the life of the child came into him again, and he revived. [23] And Elijah took the child and brought him down from the upper chamber into the house and delivered him to his mother. And Elijah said, "See, your son lives."

[24] And the woman said to Elijah, "Now I know that you are a man of God, and that the word of the LORD in your mouth is truth."

So he sends him to Zarephath, in Sidon, a place outside of Israel, which happens to be the hometown area of Jezebel herself.

- Zarephath was located far to the west, on the coast of the Mediterranean, at least one hundred miles from Cherith.
- To get there, Elijah had to walk on foot across open and unprotected land... and Elijah was a wanted man.⁷

⁶ From Josh Harris' Sermon on Matthew 1:1-17, "The Genealogy of Jesus"

- So, needless to say, Elijah is learning to trust God. For protection, for provision.
- Have you learned to trust God this way—that was the question last week? From our vantage point, we can see how important Elijah’s life is and that God is fully in control of it. But to Elijah, on the ground, it probably didn’t feel that way, did it?
- In the same way, God is watching over your life to a greater degree than you even realize. He’s got plans for you. He chose you to use you as a part of his plan, and knows when even a hair of your head falls from your scalp.
 - In fact, when you think about it, he’s got more wrapped up in your life than even you do, because he purchased you with his blood, a greater price and investment than you have even made into your own life.
 - If a parent pays for their child’s college education, they feel like they should get some say in where their kid goes. If you are a Christian, God has more wrapped up in your life than your parents do, because he has paid a lot more than a college tuition at the cost of a few hundred thousand dollars—if you went to Duke; he bought your pardon from hell at the cost of his blood.
 - And God watches over his investments carefully, because he has plans for them.

[8] Then the word of the LORD came to him, [9] “Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. Behold, I have commanded a widow there to feed you.”

So he arose and went to Zarephath.

They understand their sinfulness, and are willing for God to act in ways they don’t understand, but they still have faith.