

James 5:17-18
1 Kings Chap 17-18
"Courageous Prayer"

Mon Night
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John Goetsch



1. Introduction

- a. James makes reference to Elijah in 1 Kings chap 17-18
 - he served while King Ahaz in northern kingdom in Israel
 - Israel worshiped false gods
- b. Baal Canaanite god served as fertility god & storm god
 - mythology son of chief god El & Asherah goddess of the sea

2. Righteous Purpose

- a. History (1 Kings 17:1 no rain for 3 years)
 - 1 Kings 18:1 God will send rain again
- b. Unwavering obedience
 - 1 Kings 18:36 Elijah declares the God of Abraham, Isaac & Israel - Elijah obeyed
 - supplication without surrender is not cov
- c. Unparalleled Objective
 - 1 Kings 18:37 God is the Lord & turn your heart back to God

3. Rigorous Preparation

- a. Learning to trust solidarity
 - 1 Kings 17:2-7 God sends Elijah to brook Cherith (flows into Jordan River)
 - ravens brought meat & bread to him twice a day
 - he was alone with God & the ravens

- 3b. Learning to trust submissively
- 1 Kings 17:8-16
 - * Widow of Zarephath in Sidon (Gentile city)
 - * she only had one last meal left
 - * she obeyed the prophet to give him her last food
 - * but God continued to supply her food for her family & Elijah

- c. Learning to trust singularly
- Zarephath widow's son died
 - 1 Kings 17:17-24
 - * in her grief she complained to Elijah
 - * Elijah took boy's body into upper room
 - * Elijah cried out to God 3 times
 - * God heard Elijah & restored boy back to life
 - widow woman declares that now she knows is man of God & the Lord's word in his mouth is true

4. Railing Provocation

a. Accusing charge

- 1 Kings 18:17 Ahab calls Elijah "Troubler of Israel"
- * Ahab's family forsaken God
- righteous courage stirs sinful opposition
- * Ahab blamed Elijah for the troubles (Ahab's fault)

b. Arranged contest

- 1 Kings 18:19-38 One prophet (Elijah) against 450 priests of Baal

5. Rare Power

a. Pretense (1 Kings 18:25-29)

- priests of Baal worked all day

b. Preparation (1 Kings 18:30-38)

- Elijah built altar, offered sacrifice & God answered him with fire

c. Prayer (1 Kings 18:36-37)

d. Pre-eminence (1 Kings 18:38-39)

e. Purgings (1 Kings 18:40-41)

- kill all priests of Baal