

Amity Bible Church

“Knowing God and Making Him Known”

Sunday Bible Study

Series: God is _____

August 27, 2017

Text: 1 Kings 17:1-16

Theme: “God is More Than Enough”

Central Message:

The central message in this lesson is that we can know that God is more than enough when we manage to keep our focus in the midst of difficult and stressful situations. The adversary seeks to distract us. He wants us to focus on our circumstances instead of focusing on the God of our circumstances. Elijah, whose name means “Yahweh is our God”, demonstrates for us the importance of not losing our focus. He declared to Ahab, the king over Israel, that there would be no rain until God declared through him that the rains would return. No doubt the king doubted the power of God to accomplish such a feat, especially since he had chosen to worship Baal, the god of fertility. Ahab and Elijah both learn that God is more than enough.

Lesson #1: When we focus on God’s presence instead of on His provision, we quickly learn that God is more than enough. (1 Kings 1:1-7)

A sobering reality that often escapes us is the fact that when the judgment of God falls on the unjust, it also falls on the just.

In verse 1, Elijah declares to the King of Israel that God was going to withhold the rain for several years until, in His providence, He decided to restore rain to the land. God then directed Elijah to go to the Brook Cherith and remain there. God promised Elijah that He had already made provision

for his sustenance. God chose to dry up the rain...God chose the location where Elijah would stay during the drought...God chose the birds that would feed him and God chose the time that the brook would dry up. God knew the brook would dry up. Elijah knew that the brook would dry up, but he went anyway because he was absolutely confident that God already had a Plan B.

When God ordains a set of circumstances for us, he also ordains our relief from those circumstances. In 1 Corinthians 10:13 we find these words, *“¹³ No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.”* God wanted Elijah to learn how to trust in His presence and not in His provision. Peace and contentment come when we know that God is present with us.

Lesson #2: When we focus on God’s promises instead of on our problems, we will ultimately learn that God is more than enough. (1 Kings 1:8-13)

As could be expected, the brook that provided Elijah water dried up. He had to have known that the brook would dry up because the brook only contained water when it was raining. When the rain ceased, the brook was destined to dry up. Elijah had two options...he could panic or he could pray. He chose to pray. God directed Elijah to go to the city of Zarephath. There he would meet a widow that would provide for him. The only problem is that the widow was unable to provide for herself so how was she to provide for Elijah. This was not the widow’s problem and it was not Elijah’s problem. God’s providence will never take you to a place where His grace cannot keep you. This was a test of faith and obedience.

Elijah found the widow in Zarephath. She was destitute and unable to provide for herself. Elijah asked the woman for a cup of water and a morsel of bread. The woman told Elijah that she only had a tiny bit of flour and oil. Her plan was to prepare a bit of food for herself and her son and then wait for death to come. When we look at our own situation through physical

eyes, we fail to see what God can do. Our tendency is to judge God based upon our circumstances instead of his character.

The woman obeyed the words of the man of God because she trusted in his promise. Despite our fears and our doubts, we must learn to focus, not on our problems but on His promises. If God says that He will do it, we can trust that He will do it. God allowed His people to go into bondage in Babylon, but He promised that when their time was completed, He would bring them out. God told His people through the prophet Jeremiah, "I know the plans that I have for you...plans to prosper you and not to harm you...to give you a future and a hope. God said it...that settles it.

Lesson #3: When we focus on God's providence instead of on our poverty, we will know that God is more than enough. (1 Kings 1:14-16)

Life is not a straight line leading from one blessing to the next and then finally to heaven. Life is a winding and troubled road. And the point of biblical stories like Elijah, Joseph, Job, Esther and Ruth is to help us to know in our hearts (not just know in our heads) that God is more than enough in all these strange turns. God does not just show up after the trouble and clean it up. He is plotting the course and managing the troubles for a purpose...our good and His glory in Jesus Christ.

The widow did as Elijah had asked. She made him a bread cake and gave it to him. He ate and was satisfied. But the rest of this text demonstrates that a dry brook is never the end of the story with God. He has already figured out the solution to our problem before the problem even occurs. Why should we spend time worrying about the deficits in our lives...the things that we don't have. God already knows our needs even before we ask. When we think of God's sovereignty, it tells us that in every situation He has a plan and a purpose for dealing with that situation. Everything works according to his plan and His purpose...everything.

When we think of God's providence, we think of the fact that, not only does God have a plan, but He is actively involved in accomplishing that plan. Not

only did God providentially provide the brook to give Elijah water, He also providentially provided the ravens to feed Him. And when the brook dried up, the widow in Zarephath was already waiting.

There is no such thing as an accident. God is working in your life and in my life to will and accomplish His plan and His purpose. The greatest thing that we can do is to cooperate with God in bringing His will to pass. How do we do that? Just like Elijah, we must obey completely and quickly when God speaks to us through his word.