

**Faith Produces Miracles**  
**Happy Mother's Day!**  
**5/14/2017 Sunday AM**

**Scripture: 1 Kings 17:7-24**

**Introduction**

- Last week we asked the question, Are You Living, or Simply Existing.
- We looked at three points to help ensure we get the most out of this life: 1.) We must live with a total dependence on God. 2.) We must live with a sense of divine purpose. 3.) We must live with a desire to glorify God.
- We must realize that the more we focus on God and His plan for our lives, the more we begin to truly live.
- This morning in honor of Mother's Day we are going to talk about how Faith Produces Miracles.
- In 1 Kings 17:7-24 we are introduced to mother who on several occasions was pulled from her breaking point because of her faith.

**1 Kings 17:7-24**

<sup>7</sup>Some time later the brook dried up because there had been no rain in the land. <sup>8</sup>Then the word of the LORD came to him: <sup>9</sup>"Go at once to Zarephath of Sidon and stay there. I have commanded a widow in that place to supply you with food." <sup>10</sup>So he went to Zarephath. When he came to the town gate, a widow was there gathering sticks. He called to her and asked, "Would you bring me a little water in a jar so I may have a drink?" <sup>11</sup>As she was going to get it, he called, "And bring me, please, a piece of bread." <sup>12</sup>"As surely as the LORD your God lives," she replied, "I don't have any bread-only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. I am gathering a few sticks to take home and make a meal for myself and my son, that we may eat it-and die." <sup>13</sup>Elijah said to her, "Don't be afraid. Go home and do as you have said. But first make a small cake of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me, and then make something for yourself and your son. <sup>14</sup>For this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the LORD gives rain on the land.'" <sup>15</sup>She went away and did as Elijah had told her. So there was food every day for Elijah and for the woman and her family. <sup>16</sup>For the jar of flour was not used up and the jug of oil did not run dry, in keeping with the word of the LORD spoken by Elijah.

<sup>17</sup>Some time later the son of the woman who owned the house became ill. He grew worse and worse, and finally stopped breathing. <sup>18</sup>She said to Elijah, "What do you have against me, man of God? Did you come to remind me of my sin and kill my son?" <sup>19</sup>"Give me your son," Elijah replied. He took him from her arms, carried him to the upper room where he was staying, and laid him on his bed. <sup>20</sup>Then he cried out to the LORD, "O LORD my God, have you brought tragedy also upon this widow I am staying with, by causing her son to die?" <sup>21</sup>Then he stretched himself out on the boy three times and cried to the LORD, "O LORD my God, let this boy's life return to him!" <sup>22</sup>The LORD heard Elijah's cry, and the boy's life returned to him, and he lived. <sup>23</sup>Elijah picked up the child and carried him down from the room into the house. He gave him to his mother and said, "Look, your son is alive!" <sup>24</sup>Then the woman said to Elijah, "Now I know that you are a man of God and that the word of the LORD from your mouth is the truth."

- One very important thing to note about this woman is that she was not a Jew.
- She likely worshipped pagan gods and idols, however, she must have been acquainted with God in some way because v.12 records her saying to Elijah, "As surely as the Lord your God lives..."
- Even though she was acquainted with God and knew Elijah was His prophet, she wasn't a true believer.
- We see that Elijah asked her to get him some water and a piece of bread in v. 11.
- The problem with that was, she only had a small amount of flour and oil and was preparing her and her son's last meal before they died.
- Stop and think about that for a moment, how must she have felt as a mother?
- In v. 13 Elijah asked her to go and prepare the meal like she was saying, "But **first** make a small cake of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me..."



- Elijah was asking this woman to go and prepare the meal, but to bring him a plate first!
- Now she had just told him that she only had enough for her and her son, and then they were going to die.
- However, v.14 is where Elijah gives her the word of the Lord, “The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the Lord gives rain on the land.”
- So right here the woman was faced with a tremendous choice, submit to her current situation which led to certain death, or to trust what Elijah had said from the Lord and live.
- The second choice would have taken a tremendous amount of faith, and as we read, that’s what she chose.
- They had enough food to feed all of them that day and for the days ahead, **because she put God first.**
- V.17 presents a problem though, a little while later the boy got sick and died.
- In v. 18 the woman begins to question Elijah, “What do you have against me, man of God? Did you come to remind me of my sin and kill my son?”
- She was at her breaking point, she simply could take no more.
- We see in vv. 19-23 that Elijah took the boy, stretched himself out over the boy’s body three times while praying, and the boy was revived. Elijah then took her son to her and show her he was alive.
- V. 24 is powerful because she said, “**Now I know that you are a man of God and that the word of the Lord from your mouth is the truth.**”
- Even after God provided the food, she still did not fully accept and believed what God had said through Elijah.
- However, after losing her son and God bringing him back from the dead, she began to believe fully.
- There are many people that can identify with this woman in so many ways.
- She can be a tremendous example to so many mother’s in the world today and father’s too.
- Every day, mothers give of themselves sacrificially to their families, especially to their children.
- There are times when things get really tough in this life and we are face with the same type of choice that this mother was faced with in v. 13.
- Either we are going to try to be the masters of our own destinies, or we are going to put God as our first priority and totally rely on Him and His promises.
- The moral of the story though, is that God does not tell us that just because He provided for us once that we do not still need to rely on Him every single day.
- There may be something else coming right around the corner, and God wants us to trust in Him no matter what and to remind ourselves of how he has taken care of us in the past.
- This mother had reached her breaking point, but God allowed her to go through the things she did so that her faith would be strengthened.
- Her faith produced two miracles in her life and the same is true for us today, Faith Produces Miracles.
- If you find yourself in a situation where it seems there is no earthly way to overcome it, submit to that fact.
- There is no EARTHLY way to overcome life’s circumstance, but there sure is a HEAVENLY way!
- Try putting God first in your life and at the center of everything, you will not be disappointed.

### Tonight’s Bible Study

\*\*\*NO SERVICES TONIGHT\*\*\*

### Wednesday Night Bible Study:

Who’s Who in the Bible: Lazarus (Mary and Martha’s Brother)