

***The Widow at Zarephath***

**030205-2**

*Hello! This is Dorothy -*

I would like us to turn in our Bibles, please, to **Luke chapter 4**. There is a little verse there, in fact two verses, **-verses 25 and 26 -** which our Lord spoke. Somehow, it may seem strange to read it right there, but there is a great deal behind what we are going to see as we turn to the Old Testament. Our Lord Himself said,

**25 But I tell you of a truth, many widows were in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, when great famine was throughout the land.**

**26 But unto none of them was Elijah sent, save unto Sarepta, a city of Sidon, unto a woman that was a widow.** Interesting verses.

We read back in the Old Testament in **1 Kings, chapter 17**, how that Elijah, who was God's prophet, prayed there would be no water. You realize people worshiped Baal, hoping that by appeasing him, he was going to give them water. But they realized that in putting Elijah in this position, he who had prayed there would be no water, was himself in this position. He was by a little brook, and God sent the "raven express" every day to supply his food. He sent ravens, of all things, with food for him. There was this little brook, brook Cherith, but when that dried up, God said, "Now I want you to go to the very land where the wicked queen, Jezebel, had come from." Could you imagine going right there to that very territory? That word that we just read, the little town which was described at Sarepta in **Luke's Gospel**, back in **1 Kings** is called Zarephath and which belonged to the land of Sidon. This is not too far from the area of

Tyre. This is where this evil woman, Jezebel, had come. This evil woman had brought these practices, which were part of the common occurrence of what went on there in the very temple, where the only true living God should have been worshiped.

So Elijah arrived in Zarephath and, as mentioned, he had come out of a place without water. **1 Kings 17 -**

**10 (He saw) . . . the widow woman who was gathering sticks . . .** (We have seen this often in Africa. People go and gather little dry sticks as that is their only way of making a little fire to be able to cook their meal.) He saw her gathering these sticks and as she did so . . . **he called to her, and said, Fetch me, I pray thee, a little water in a vessel, that I may drink.**

**11 And as she was going to fetch it, he called to her, and said, Bring me, I pray thee, a morsel of bread in thine hand.** That is an interesting thing. Here was a land in great famine. She could have said, "Hey, whatever do you think you are asking?" But instead, in a very polite way -

**12 . . . she said, As the Lord thy God liveth . . .** She was a Gentile. She was not from Israel, but, in her own heart, she had turned to want to know the true and living God. Therefore, she recognized who this man was, in that he served the living God. She turned and she said, . . . **As the Lord thy God liveth, I have not a cake, but a handful of meal in a barrel, and a little oil in a cruise; and behold, I am gathering two sticks, that I may go in and dress it for me and my son, that we may eat it, and die.** A hopeless situation; bleak, black, hopeless. Oh, what a great God we have! He loves to come in on those situations, but He often lets us get to that place so that we don't have any little idea tucked away in the back of our mind: program A if program B falls down! No, he wants us to totally count upon how He will provide; how He will

undertake.

So this servant of God turned to this woman and, of all things, he met a very polite, kind, and willing woman that would give it, but she didn't have it. She was explaining, "This last little bit I have and that's it for me and my son. Then we are going to die." And right away -

**14 For thus saith the Lord God of Israel . . .** This is not Elijah speaking; this is God speaking through him . . . **The barrel of meal shall not waste . . .**

In everything , everything, the Lord wants to stretch your faith that in your most crucial hour, the climax of everything evil it seems happening around you and hopeless, that you turn to the living God. He has a way that He will come through. Not in the way you think, but He has a plan, because He cares for you. He loves you. You are special to Him. That is why with all your heart, turn to Him and let us know how God is working in your life. We want to help you spiritually. We love you.

*In Jesus' Name. Amen.*