August 31, 2025
Sea Change Church
Elijah: Drought to Downpour
S1E3 – The Refining Place
Pastor Adam Stadtmiller

1 Kings 17:8-16

Vs. 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." **10** So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, a widow was there gathering sticks. 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.

Key Word: **Sovereign**

1. God is **sovereign** over our path.
2. God's provision is **sovereign, surprising, and sufficient!**

1. **God is sovereign over our path: Vs 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."
    a. Elijah is being led by God's Word.
    b. God commands Elijah to "ARISE" and "GO".
        i. Sidon was the home of Jezebel and the center of Baal worship.
        ii. Elijah was commanded to dwell in a dark place.

2. **God's provision is sovereign, surprising, and sufficient! Vs.** 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.**"
    a. Why did God choose a widow?
        i. To prove he is not subservient to the power of this world.
        ii. **Messianic tie in:** This is another instance of grace being shown to the gentiles.
            1. **Acts 13:47 (Paul & Barnabas quoting Isaiah 49:6)** "I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth."
    b. **God's provision is "often" yoked to our generosity: Vs. 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.
        - **Offerings are not dependent on wealth. Vs. 12**
        - **Understanding the principle of first fruits. Vs. 13**
        - **God still blesses Old Testament faithfulness. Vs. 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.

Small Group Discussion Questions:

1. Why would God send Elijah into Jezebel's homeland? What does that say about His plans for us?

2. Why use a poor widow instead of someone wealthy? What does that teach about God's provision?

3. What does Elijah asking for bread *first* teach us about first fruits today?

4. Have you seen God bless obedience or generosity in your own life?

5. The flour and oil never ran out but never overflowed—how does that shape how we view "enough"?