

WHEN YOU'RE RUNNING OUT OF EVERYTHING

When You're Hoping For a Miracle- Part 1

1 Kings 17:1-16

"Now Elijah confronted King Ahab, 'As surely as God lives, the God of Israel whom I worship and serve—there will be no dew or rain during the next few years unless I give the word!'"

1 Kings 17:1

KERITH: THE RAVINE OF OBSCURITY

"Then the Lord said to Elijah, 'Go east and hide in the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan. The Kerith brook will give you fresh water to drink and I've commanded ravens to bring you food there every day.' So Elijah obeyed what the Lord said to do. He moved to the Kerith Ravine and lived there. The birds brought him food each morning and evening and he drank from the brook. BUT AFTER A WHILE THE BROOK DRIED UP, because there was no rain."

1 Kings 17:2-7

3 REASONS GOD ALLOWS BROOKS TO DRY UP

JOURNEY NORTH: THE ROAD OF INSECURITY

"Then the Lord said, 'Now get up and go to Zarephath and live there. I've prepared a widow there to take care of you.' So Elijah went to Zarephath."

1 Kings 17:8-9a

WHAT TO REMEMBER:

ZAREPHATH: THE REFINERY OF SCARCITY

“When he reached the town gate, Elijah saw a widow gathering firewood. He asked her, ‘Would you please bring me a drink of water?’ As she was going to get it, Elijah added, ‘and please bring me a small piece of bread, too.’ The woman answered, ‘As surely as your God lives, I swear I have no bread. I only have a handful of flour left in a small jar and a little olive oil left in a jug. I came to gather some wood so I could go home and cook our last meal.

My son and I will eat it and then we’ll die of hunger.’”

“Don’t be afraid!” Elijah said. ‘Go home and first make a small loaf of bread from what you have, and bring it to me. Then cook something for yourself and your son. God says, ‘I assure you that jar of flour will never be empty, and the jug of oil will never run out, until the day I send rain to the land.’ So the widow did what Elijah told her to do, and she and her son and Elijah had enough food every day. The jar of flour and the jug of oil never ran out, just as God had promised.”

1 Kings 17:9b-16

WHAT TO REMEMBER:

LESSONS FOR RECESSIONS

“My God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.”

Phil. 4:19

WHEN YOU CAN'T SEE YOUR WAY CLEARLY

When You're Hoping For a Miracle- Part 2

"The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness."

Matt. 6:22-23 (NIV)

MARK 8:17-29

AN EMBARRASSING MISUNDERSTANDING

"Then Jesus got into the boat and crossed to the other side. The disciples had forgotten to bring bread, except for one loaf they had in the boat. 'Be careful,' Jesus warned. 'Watch out for the yeast of the Pharisees and that of Herod.' The disciples discussed why Jesus had said this and they decided it was because they hadn't brought bread with them. Aware of their discussion, Jesus asked, 'Why are you talking about having no bread? Do you still not see or Understand? Are your MINDS CLOSED? You have eyes, but you don't really see! You have ears, but you don't really listen. Remember when I divided five loaves of bread for the five thousand? How many baskets did you fill with leftover pieces of food?' They said, 'twelve.' 'And when I divided seven loaves of bread for the four thousand, how many baskets did you fill with leftover pieces of food?' They said, 'seven.' Then Jesus said, 'And you still don't understand yet?'"

Mark 8:13-21

Every miracle has _____

BLINDNESS is a metaphor _____

WHAT KEEPS ME FROM SEEING LIFE CLEARLY?

1. _____

"Watch out for the yeast of the Pharisees."

2. _____

"The disciples discussed why Jesus had said this and they decided it was because they hadn't brought bread with them!"

3. _____

"Remember... the two miracles...?"

"Without a vision, the people perish!"

Prov. 29:18

*"I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know
THE HOPE to which he has called you..."*

Eph. 1:18

A PROGRESSIVE MIRACLE

"They came to Bethsaida, and some people brought a blind man and begged Jesus to touch him. Jesus took the blind man by the hand and led him outside the village."

Mark 8:22

3 CONDITIONS FOR A MIRACLE

1.

2.

3.

"Then Jesus spit on the man's eyes and put his hands on him, and then asked, 'Do you see anything?' The man looked up and said, 'I see people but they look like trees walking around.' So Jesus put his hands on the man's eyes a second time. Then his eyes were opened fully, his sight was restored completely, and he saw everything clearly. Jesus sent him home, saying, 'Don't go back into town.'"

Mark 8:23-26

3 LESSONS ABOUT SEEING LIFE CLEARLY

1. My spiritual vision _____

2. The test of my vision is _____

3. Jesus heals my sight three ways:

"Teach me what I cannot see; and if I've done wrong, I won't do it again!"

Job 34:32 (NIV)

A CLARIFYING QUESTION

“Then Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, ‘Who do people say I am?’ They replied, ‘Some say you are John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others say you’re one of the other prophets.’ ‘BUT WHAT ABOUT YOU?’ Jesus asked. “Who do YOU say I am?” Peter said, “You are the Christ, the Messiah!”

Mark 8:27-29

How I _____ determines how clearly I see everything else.

WHEN YOU'VE COME UP EMPTY

When You're Hoping For a Miracle- Part 3

LUKE 5:1-11

“One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, with the people crowding around him and listening to the word of God, he saw at the water’s edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat.”

(vs. 1-3)

“When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, ‘Now launch out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.’ Simon answered, ‘Master, we’ve worked hard all night and haven’t caught anything.’”

(vs. 4-5a)

WHAT TO DO IN A DISCOURAGING SITUATION

1. _____

“Jesus got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat.”

(vs. 3)

2. _____

“When Jesus had finished speaking, he said to Simon, ‘Now launch out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.’ Simon answered, ‘Master, we’ve worked hard all night and haven’t caught anything.’”

(vs. 4-5a)

3. _____

“Simon answered, ‘Master, we’ve worked hard all night and haven’t caught anything. BUT because you say so, I will let down the nets.’”

(vs. 5)

WHEN: “Now launch out”

WHAT: “let down your nets”

WHERE: “into deep water”

4.

“The One who calls you is completely dependable. If he said it, he’ll do it!”

1 Thes. 5:24 (MSG)

“When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break! So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink!”

(vs. 6-7)

PETER’S REACTION

“When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus’ knees and said, ‘Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!’ For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon’s partners.”

(vs. 8-9)

THE REAL LESSON

“Then Jesus said to Simon, ‘Don’t be afraid; from now on you will catch men.’ So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.”

(vs. 10-11)

WHEN YOU FEEL YOU'RE SINKING

When You're Hoping For a Miracle- Part 4

“Immediately Jesus made his disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd. After leaving them, he went up alone on a mountainside to pray. When evening came, the boat was in the middle of the lake, and he was alone on land. He saw the disciples straining at the oars, because the wind was against them. About the fourth watch of the night he went out to them, walking on the lake. He was about to pass by them, but when they saw him walking on the lake, they thought he was a ghost! They cried out, because they all saw him and were terrified. Immediately he spoke to them and said, ‘Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.’ Then he climbed into the boat with them, and the wind died down. They were completely amazed, for they had not understood about the loaves; their hearts were hardened.”

Mark 6:45-52 (NIV)

THAT SINKING FEELING

Matt. 14:22-33, Mark 6:45-52, John 6:15-21

“By now it was dark...”

John 6:17a

“Jesus had not yet joined them”

Jn. 6:17b

“the boat was in the middle of the lake”

Mark 6:47

“They were a long way from shore”

Matt. 14:24

“tossed around and battered by waves”

Matt. 14:24b

“the waters grew rough!”

John 6:18

“the wind was against them”

Mark 6:48

“they were in serious trouble, rowing hard and struggling against the wind and waves.”

Mark 6:48 (LB)

WHAT DOES JESUS DO WHEN I'M SINKING?

1. _____

(Matt. 14:23)

*Jesus had been on the mountain praying for his disciples “I have prayed for you, that you will not lose your faith!
Help your brothers be stronger when you come back to me.”*

Luke 22:32 (NCV)

*“Who condemns us? Not Christ Jesus, who died and then was raised back to life and is now at the right side of
God, interceding for us!”*

Romans 8:34 (TEV)

2. _____

“He saw the disciples straining at the oars.”

Mark 6:48a

“He sees everything I do and counts every step I take.”

Job 31:4

“Jesus is able to sympathize with our weaknesses. He was tempted in every way that we are, but he didn't sin.”

Hebrews 4:15

3. _____

“About the fourth watch of the night he went out to them, walking on the lake.”

Mark 6:48b

“I will not abandon you or leave you as orphans in the storm--I WILL come to you!”

John 14:18 (LB)

4. _____

*“When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. ‘It's a ghost,’ they said, and cried out in fear.
But Jesus immediately said to them: ‘Take courage! IT IS I! Don't be afraid.’”*

Mark 6:49-50

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I'M SINKING?

1) _____

“Jesus said to them ‘Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid!’”

Mark 6:50

2) _____

“‘Lord, if it’s you,’ Peter replied, ‘tell me to come to you on the water!’ ‘Come,’ Jesus said. So Peter got out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus.”

Matt. 14:28-29 (NIV)

3) _____

“But when Peter looked around at the high waves, he was terrified and began to sink. ‘Save me, Lord!’ he shouted.”

Matt. 14:30 (NLT)

4) _____

“Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. ‘You of little faith,’ he said, ‘Why did you doubt?’”

Matt. 14:31 (NIV)

5) _____

“When Jesus climbed into the boat, the wind died down. Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, ‘Truly you are the Son of God.’”

Matt. 14:32-33 (NIV)

WHEN A MARRIAGE HAS ENDED

When You're Hoping For a Miracle- Part 5

"Two are better than one... If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up!"

Eccl. 4:9-10 (NIV)

"Friends love through all kinds of weather."

Prov. 17:17 (MSG)

How To Help Your Friend

1. _____

"A despairing man should have the devotion of his friends, even though he forsakes the fear of the Almighty."

Job 6:14 (NIV)

"When Job's three friend..., heard about all the troubles that had come upon him, they set out from their homes and met together by agreement to go and sympathize with him and comfort him."

Job 2:11 (NIV)

2. _____

"Then they saw him from a distance... they began to weep aloud, and they tore their robes and sprinkled dust on their heads. Then they sat on the ground with him for seven days and seven nights. No one said a word to him, because they saw how great his suffering was."

Job 2:12-13 (NIV)

3. _____

"The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit."

Ps. 34:18 (NIV)

"Let us approach the throne of grace with confidence, so we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."

Heb. 4:16 (NIV)

"I cry out to the Lord; I plead for his mercy. I pour out my complaints before him and tell him all my troubles. For I am overwhelmed, and you alone know the way I should turn..."

Ps. 142:1-6 (NLT)

4. _____

"You are only hurting yourself with your anger."

Job 18:4 (TEV)

“My guilt overwhelms me-- it is a burden too heavy to bear... But I confess my sins; I am deeply sorry for what I have done.”

Ps. 38:4+18 (NLT)

“Get rid of all bitterness ... forgiving each other just as in Christ God forgave you.”

Eph. 4:31-32 (NIV)

5. _____

David: “I fasted and wept while the child was alive... But why should I fast when he is dead? Can I bring him back to life?”

(See 2 Sam. 12:16-23)

6. _____

“I would have despaired unless I had believed that I’d see the goodness of the LORD...”

Ps. 27:13 (NAS)

“Faith comes from hearing the message... heard through the Word of Christ.”

Rom. 10:17 (NIV)

“I am completely discouraged... Revive me by your word.”

Ps. 119:25 (LB)

7. _____

“God who began the good work within you will keep right on helping you grow in his grace until his task within you is finally finished...”

Phil. 1:6 (LB)

“Put your heart right, reach out to God... then face the world again, firm and courageous. Then all your troubles will fade from your memory...”

Job 11:13-16 (TEV)

WHEN YOU'RE DROWNING IN DEBT

When You're Hoping For a Miracle- Part 6

“Woe to him who stores up what is not his: how long can it last! He loads himself down with debts. Shall not your creditors rise suddenly? Shall they not make you tremble awake? You'll become their spoil!”

Hab. 2:6-7 (NAB)

DANGER SIGNS

1. _____

“Don't withhold repayment of your debts. Don't say 'some other time,' if you can pay now.”

Pr. 3:27-28 (LB)

shows a lack of contentment

(Luke 3:14)

presumes on the future

(Pr. 27:1)

2. _____

“Let no debt remain outstanding.”

Rom. 13:8 (NIV)

3. _____

“Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. But you ask, 'How do we rob you?' In tithes and offerings.”

Mal. 3:8 (NIV)

“The wise man saves for the future, but the foolish man spends whatever he gets.”

Pr. 21:20 (LB)

4. _____

“Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's.”

Matt. 22:21 (NIV)

5. _____

“Indulging in luxuries, wine, and food will never make you wealthy.”

Pr. 21:17 (GN)

6. _____
“Steady plodding brings prosperity; hasty speculation brings poverty.”
Pr. 21:5 (LB)

STEPS TO FREEDOM

1. _____ **TO BECOMING DEBT FREE NOW!**

“The wicked borrow and do not repay...”

Psalms 37:21 (NIV)

2. **START PAYING** _____ **(10/10/80)**

Mal. 3:8-11, Pr. 3:9-10, 1 Cor. 16:1-2, Pr. 21:5,20 – Tithing & Saving

“The purpose of tithing is to teach you always to put God first in your lives.”

Deut. 14:23 (LB)

3. _____

“By wisdom a house is built, and through understanding it is established.”

Pr. 24:3 (NIV)

4. _____

“Get rid of every idol...”

Ezek. 20:7 (LB)

5. **SET UP** _____

“Good planning and hard work lead to prosperity...”

Pr. 21:5 (NLT)

“Get advice if you want your plans to work.”

Pr. 20:18 (NCV)

6. **DECIDE TO** _____

“What is impossible with men is possible with God.”

Luke 18:27 (NIV)

7. _____

“Be content with what you have...”

Heb. 13:5 (NIV)

8. SHARE MY PLAN WITH _____

“When your ways please the Lord, he will make your enemies into friends.”

Pr. 16:7 (GN)

9. _____

“Let us not get tired of doing what is right, for after a while we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don’t get discouraged and give up.”

Gal. 6:9 (LB)

WHEN A FRIEND IS DYING

When You're Hoping For a Miracle- Part 7

"No one can live forever; all will die. No one can escape the power of the grave."

Psalm 89:48 (NLT)

HOW SPIRITUALLY UNPREPARED PEOPLE REACT

"This isn't happening to me!"

"I am frightened inside; the terror of death has attacked me."

Psalm 55:4 (NCV)

"Why is this happening to me?"

"I was overcome with anger. The more I thought, the more troubled I became; I could not keep from asking: 'Lord, how long will I live? When will I die? Tell me how soon my life will end?'"

Psalm 39:3-4 (TEV)

"I promise to ... if you'll let me live."

"You can never pay God enough to stay alive forever and be safe from death."

Psalm 49:8-9 (CEV)

"I just don't care anymore."

"I'm at the end of my rope, my life is in ruins. I'm fading away to nothing, passing away."

Psalm 109:22-23 (MSG)

"I'm ready for whatever happens."

"I am trusting you, O Lord, saying, 'You are my God!' My future is in your hands."

Psalm 31:14-15 (NLT)

"My loved ones and friends stay away, fearing my disease. Even my own family stands at a distance."

Psalm 38:11 (NLT)

HOW TO COMFORT SOMEONE WHO IS DYING

C _____

O _____

M _____

F _____

O _____

R _____

T _____

“For only as a human being could Jesus die, and only by dying could he break the power of the Devil, who had the power of death. Only in this way could he deliver those who have lived all their lives as slaves to the fear of dying.”

Hebrews 2:14-15 (NLT)

“So we don’t look at the troubles we can see right now; rather, we look forward to what we have not yet seen. For the troubles we see will soon be over, but the joys to come will last forever.”

2 Cor. 4:18 (NLT)

“Death itself stared me in the face. But in my distress I cried out to the Lord.”

Psalms 18:5-6 (NLT)

