1 Kings 17:1-16 **Pastor Mike Mackneer** Dec. 30/18

**“One Step At A Time”**

“Now Elijah the Tishbite, from Tishbe in Gilead, said to Ahab, “As the Lord, the God of Israel, lives, whom I serve, there will be neither dew nor rain in the next few years except at my word.”2Then the word of the Lord came to Elijah: 3“Leave here, turn eastward and hide in the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan. 4You will drink from the brook, and I have directed the ravens to supply you with food there.”5So he did what the Lord had told him. He went to the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan, and stayed there. 6The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning and bread and meat in the evening, and he drank from the brook.7Some time later the brook dried up because there had been no rain in the land. 8Then the word of the Lord came to him: 9“Go at once to Zarephath in the region of Sidon and stay there. I have directed a widow there to supply you with food.” 10So 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?” 11As she was going to get it, he called, “And bring me, please, a piece of bread.”12“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 olive 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.”13Elijah said to her, “Don’t be afraid. Go home and do as you have said. But first make a small loaf of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me, and then make something for yourself and your son. 14For 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 sends rain on the land.’”15She went away and did as Elijah had told her. So there was food every day for Elijah and for the woman and her family. 16For 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.” - 1 Kings 17:1-16

**Introduction:**

God’s great purpose for our lives is revealed one step at a time. His next step for you requires obedience, faith, and trust in His leading. Elijah was a man just like us (James 5:17) and his story gives us an example of following God one step of faith at a time.

From Elijah’s story we learn that…

**1. God’s plan and provision is revealed in obedience.**

*“So* ***he did what the Lord had told him****. He went to the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan, and stayed there. 6The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning and bread and meat in the evening, and he drank from the brook.”*

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*“Where you are right now is God’s place for you. Live and obey and love and believe* ***right there.****”* - 1 Corinthians 7:17 (MSG)

a. “There” is a place of promise.

i. God promised Elijah that the ravens would feed him “***there***.”

ii. God always does what He promises He will do.

b. “There” is a place of provision.

i. God directed the ravens every day and night to feed Elijah.

ii. God knows how to provide for the needs of His children.

c. “There” is a place of power.

i. Elijah witnessed the power of God.

ii. God has the power to handle any situation we face.

**2. God always has a next step.**

*“Some time later the brook dried up because there had been no rain in the land. 8Then the word of the Lord came to him: 9“Go at once to Zarephath in the region of Sidon and stay there. I have directed a widow there to supply you with food.” 10So he went to Zarephath.”* - 1 Kings 17:7-10a

 OBEDIENCE

 HERE THERE

 FAITH

**QUESTION:** What “brooks” are drying up in your life?

**3. God knows what He is doing.**

*“Many are the plans in a person’s heart, but it is the Lord’s purpose that prevails.”* - Proverbs 19:21

*“Being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”* - Philippians 1:6

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