

## ***Elijah and the Widow's Son***

### ***1 Kings 17:17-24***

#### ***"After this..."***

What has Elijah learned up to this point?

#### ***The Widow's Response***

She said to Elijah, "Man of God, why are you here? Have you come to call attention to my iniquity so that my son is put to death?"

How does the widow react?

1. She felt she was immune to problems because Elijah was with her.
2. She began to question whether it was her fault for the trouble she was in.
3. She became angry/disappointed and blamed someone else.

What are some of the feelings we have when we face difficult situations?

Have you had a similar experience or reacted in a similar way?

#### ***Elijah's Response***

19 But Elijah said to her, "Give me your son." So he took him from her arms, brought him up to the upstairs room where he was staying, and laid him on his own bed. 20 Then he cried out to the Lord and said, "Lord my God, have you also brought tragedy on the widow I am staying with by killing her son?"

O Lord reveals the Recognition of God's Sovereignty.

My God reveals the recognition of a person relationship with God.

How did Elijah react?

1. Did not take the widows accusations personally.
2. Secure in knowing the Lord was in control.
3. Took the woman's plight to the Lord not her retort.

Specific prayers vs. General Prayers

Elijah takes this specific concern to the Lord.

### **God's Response**

21 Then he stretched himself out over the boy three times. He cried out to the Lord and said, "Lord my God, please let this boy's life come into him again!"

Prayer of Faith - James 5:17-18

22 So the Lord listened to Elijah, and the boy's life came into him again, and he lived.

23 Then Elijah took the boy, brought him down from the upstairs room into the house, and gave him to his mother. Elijah said, "Look, your son is alive."

(First time in the Bible someone is raised from the dead.)

### **Conclusion**

24 Then the woman said to Elijah, "Now I know you are a man of God and the Lord's word from your mouth is true."

What do we learn from this?

1. Miracles confirm God is real.
2. There is a bigger Purpose behind suffering
3. Remember we have a God who can do the impossible.

The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me.

Lord, your faithful love endures forever;

do not abandon the work of your hands. Psalm 138:8

In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ; 1 Peter 1:6-7

### ***Five purposes of suffering and trials - John Piper***

The macro purposes of God in our sufferings include:

**Repentance:** Suffering is a call for us and others to turn from treasuring anything on earth above God. Luke 13:4-5.

**Reliance:** Suffering is a call to trust God and not the life-sustaining props of this world. 2 Corinthians 1:8-9.

**Righteousness:** Suffering is the discipline of our loving heavenly Father so that we come to share his righteousness and holiness. Hebrews 12:6, 10-11.

**Reward:** Suffering is working for us a great reward in heaven that will make up for every loss here a thousandfold. 2 Corinthians 4:17.

**Reminder:** Suffering reminds us that God sent his Son into the world to suffer so that our suffering would not be God's condemnation but his purification. Philippians 3:10.