

Tuesday Evening Bible Study Group Notes

“Where God Guides, God Provides”

Scripture Reading: 1 Kings 17.2-7, Psalm 37

Key Verse: “*I have been young, and [now] am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.*” Psalm 37.25

These next few studies teach us about the hidden life of Elijah, the life that every Christian shares with God, and a few very personal friends. It begins in 1 Kings 17.3 in the words “Go hide thyself . . .” and concludes in chapter 18, verse 1 with the words “Go show thyself”. Christian, do you enjoy the life which is hidden with Christ in God? If not you are missing out on the powerhouse of the Christian living. Pay particular attention to these next studies as through them the Holy Spirit can minister His liberating, sustaining power to you. Look up John 10.9

When God Speaks. V2. Following creation God sought out Adam in the garden Genesis 3.8, and has done so whenever there are people who have a heart and an ear tuned to His voice. He still seeks us today. Romans 8.14. How can we recognize the voice of God when He speaks to us? This is an art which we must learn for ourselves, but it comes from our living in His presence. Read about how Samuel learned to listen to the voice of God in 1 Samuel 3.1-10. When God spoke to Elijah, he had no trouble recognizing His voice. Notice what v2 says “*the word of the LORD came to him*” Do you long for your life to be ordered by God? Then here is a promise for you. “*The steps of a good man are ordered, (established) by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way.*” Psalm 37.23.

The Word He Heard. God’s words to us usually have these characteristics.

First note that it was concise. God is seldom wordy, usually no more than two or three sentences.
It was clear, so basic a child could have understood it.
It was comprehensive, it included all Elijah needed to know to confidently obey the instruction.
Look up these examples of New Testament characters to see these characteristics at work. Philip, Acts 8.26 & 8.29. Paul, Acts 9.4-6, Ananias, Acts 9.10-12 & 15-16. Peter, Acts 10.13&15. Church Elders, Acts 13.2

Times of Silence. Why did God send his prophet to the brook Cherith. We may consider several reasons from Elijah’s position. First it was to protect him from the anger of King Ahab. Then to provide for him during the famine, and also to teach him lessons of dependence on God and the walk of faith, but there is another reason

relating to the wider situation; God withdraws his messengers for long periods during times of social apostasy. Note these instances as examples. Psalm 74.7-9, Isaiah 30.20, Amos 8.11-12, 1 Samuel 3.1 where the word of God was ‘rare’. What does this say about our society today? Does it explain some things you have observed?

Where God Guides, God Provides.

Notice these things about that provision in verses 3&4:

First the certainty of it. ‘*You shall . . . I have commanded*’

Second, the sufficiency of it. There was bread, water and meat. Not luxury, but sustenance during famine when many were faced with starvation. See Philippians 4.19.

Third, the location of it. Away from King Ahab, in his own home territory, and in the place of God’s appointment.

The regularity of the supply.

Morning and evening, just in time to meet the need.

These qualities of God’s providence for His own are characteristic of His provision, right to this very day. Who would want to be found anywhere else?

I remain, Sir, Your Obedient Servant.

“*The Word of the Lord came to him,*” v2. Now look at verse 5, “*So he went*

and did according to the word of the Lord” Put yourself in Elijah’s place, what questions, what objections would you have put up? Elijah’s response was instantaneous, complete and unquestioning. Look up John 2.5. Do you remember the Sunday School Hymn which goes:
*Trust and obey, for there is no other way
To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey*

Finally, the Provision Came to an

End. It was because there had been no rain in the land. That is the organic cause, but there was also a heavenly reason. See verse 7. The words translated from the Hebrew “*after a while*” mean more literally, ‘At the end of time’ or more simply, ‘When the time was up’. What time was up? The time of God’s purpose, appointment and provision. When God’s time was up, the brook dried up; not before. Have you ever wondered what went through the mind of Elijah as he saw the water level receding, as he stooped a little lower each day to slake his thirst? ‘Will I have to dig a well? God helps those who help themselves.’ Panic, panic, panic, ‘Call out the prayer partners!’ or ‘What has God in store for me next?’ To answer this question take a peek at the next study (1 Kings 17.8-16). You will see that God is never taken by surprise.

Welcome Glen Park Gospel Church
Lower Road, Eltham North
Sundays 10.30 am

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