

## Days of Elijah pt3 – A Miraculous Message in the Mess

Dr. John Carmichael

[Jas 5:17 NASB95] 17 Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months.

[1Ki 17:17-24 NASB95] 17 Now it came about after these things that the son of the woman, the mistress of the house, became sick; and his sickness was so severe that there was no breath left in him. 18 So she said to Elijah, "What do I have to do with you, O man of God? You have come to me to bring my iniquity to remembrance and to put my son to death!" 19 He said to her, "Give me your son." Then he took him from her bosom and carried him up to the upper room where he was living, and laid him on his own bed. 20 He called to the LORD and said, "O LORD my God, have You also brought calamity to the widow with whom I am staying, by causing her son to die?" 21 Then he stretched himself upon the child three times, and called to the LORD and said, "O LORD my God, I pray You, let this child's life return to him." 22 The LORD heard the voice of Elijah, and the life of the child returned to him and he revived. 23 Elijah took the child and brought him down from the upper room into the house and gave him to his mother; and Elijah said, "See, your son is alive." 24 Then the woman said to Elijah, "Now I know that you are a man of God and that the word of the LORD in your mouth is truth."

- There is no message without a mess. Or a testimony without a test. Miracles usually involve confronting the forces trying to push us back or keep us from going forward.
- There are times you will experience miracles in one area and a crisis in another.
- The unnamed woman and Elijah experience a miracle of continual supply, and then her son dies. It is a crisis that both Elijah and the woman (mother) must face.

**What does God want us to know about miracles in the mess?**

**Here are five lessons God wants us to know about miracles in the mess.**

### **I. Do not think it strange to experience a setback amid a miracle.**

- a. V. 17... the miracle of supernatural continual supply continued when the boy died.
- b. How can God do miraculous things on one side and other situations go wrong? It just does not make sense. It would make more sense that if God is involved, everything would be good.
- c. [1Pe 4:12-13 NASB95] 12 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; 13 but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation.
- d. Stay steady when troubles come. Remember the good God is for you.

### **II. Resist the blame game.**

- a. V. 18 – she was efficient with her blame. She blamed God through Elijah because of her sin.
- b. We live in a fallen world.
- c. [Jhn 9:1-3 NASB95] 1 As He passed by, He saw a man blind from birth. 2 And His disciples asked Him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he would be born blind?" 3 Jesus answered, "[It was] neither [that] this man sinned, nor his parents; but [it was] so that the works of God might be displayed in him.
- d. [Luk 13:1-5 NASB95] 1 Now on the same occasion there were some present who reported to Him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. 2 And Jesus said to them, "Do you suppose that these Galileans were [greater] sinners than all [other] Galileans because they suffered this [fate?]" 3 "I tell you, no, but unless

## Days of Elijah pt3 – A Miraculous Message in the Mess

Dr. John Carmichael

you repent, you will all likewise perish. 4 "Or do you suppose that those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them were [worse] culprits than all the men who live in Jerusalem? 5 "I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish."

- e. We all have sinned. We all deserve judgment. Judgment will come unless we repent.
- f. The point is that while it is common to attribute our troubles as judgment because of personal sin, personal sin is not always the reason for the troubles.
- g. Ultimately, sin is the cause of all trouble, so repent. But do not blame God's wrath on your negative situations.

### III. Learn to give it to God.

- a. V. 19 – Elijah (in the place of God here) asks her to give him the boy.
- b. [1Pe 5:7 NASB95] 7 casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.
- c. God is asking us to do the same.
- d. Elijah took the boy to his own bed. [Isa 53:4-5 NASB95] 4 Surely our griefs He Himself bore, And our sorrows He carried; Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, Smitten of God, and afflicted. 5 But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being [fell] upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed.
- e. Give "it" to God. He wants to take it and fix it.

### IV. PUSH – Pray until something happens.

- a. V. 20-22...
- b. First, Elijah does not accuse God.
- c. He prays three times.
- d. God heard him.
- e. [Luk 11:1, 5-13 NASB95] 1 It happened that while Jesus was praying in a certain place, after He had finished, one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray just as John also taught his disciples." ... 5 Then He said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and goes to him at midnight and says to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves; 6 for a friend of mine has come to me from a journey, and I have nothing to set before him'; 7 and from inside he answers and says, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been shut and my children and I are in bed; I cannot get up and give you [anything.]' 8 "I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him [anything] because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence he will get up and give him as much as he needs. 9 "So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 10 "For everyone who asks, receives; and he who seeks, finds; and to him who knocks, it will be opened. 11 "Now suppose one of you fathers is asked by his son for a fish; he will not give him a snake instead of a fish, will he? 12 "Or [if] he is asked for an egg, he will not give him a scorpion, will he? 13 "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will [your] heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?"
- f. [Luk 18:1-8 NASB95] 1 Now He was telling them a parable to show that at all times they ought to pray and not to lose heart, 2 saying, "In a certain city there was a judge who did not fear God and did not respect man. 3 "There was a widow in that city, and she kept coming to him, saying, 'Give me legal protection from my opponent.' 4 "For a while he was unwilling; but afterward he said to himself, 'Even though I do not fear God nor respect man, 5 yet because this widow bothers me, I will give her legal protection, otherwise by continually coming she will wear me out.'" 6 And the Lord said, "Hear what the unrighteous judge said; 7 now, will not God bring about justice for His elect who cry to Him day and night, and will He delay long over them? 8 "I tell you that He will bring

## Days of Elijah pt3 – A Miraculous Message in the Mess

Dr. John Carmichael

about justice for them quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?"

- g. Ask and keep on asking. Seek and keep on seeking. Knock and keep on knocking.
- h. Practice the spiritual gift of being annoying in prayer.

### V. Miracles might help others' faith.

- a. V. 23-24
- b. Her faith was strengthened.
- c. Miracles DO NOT ALWAYS cause people to believe. [Luk 16:30-31 NASB95] 30 "But he said, 'No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent!' 31 "But he said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead.'"
- d. If a person is a seeker, miracles help people. [Jhn 2:11 NASB95] 11 This beginning of [His] signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory, and His disciples believed in Him.
- e. Allow miracles to strengthen your faith. Share with others what God has done and is doing in your life.

### VI. Bonus: Learn to honor those who are called into the five-fold leadership.

- a. [Luk 4:22-27 NASB95] 22 And all were speaking well of Him, and wondering at the gracious words which were falling from His lips; and they were saying, "Is this not Joseph's son?" 23 And He said to them, "No doubt you will quote this proverb to Me, 'Physician, heal yourself! Whatever we heard was done at Capernaum, do here in your hometown as well.'" 24 And He said, "Truly I say to you, no prophet is welcome in his hometown. 25 "But I say to you in truth, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the sky was shut up for three years and six months, when a great famine came over all the land; 26 and yet Elijah was sent to none of them, but only to Zarephath, [in the land] of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow. 27 "And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of Elisha the prophet; and none of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian."

- **In a cursed, sin-filled world, God wants us to keep trusting Him.**