

Sunday Series – Harvest of Hope

Message Summary: If you've spent much time on the Internet lately, you've probably found plenty of reasons to feel hopeless, afraid, or angry. By studying the Prophet Elijah, we see our hope is in God's love not our circumstances. It is not in a good day. It is not in a bad day. It is not in a crisis. It is in the Lord of Lords. God is looking for people who aren't looking to their circumstances—but to him—for hope.

When All Seems Hopeless

Romans 15:4; James 5:17

Romans 15:4 – “For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.”

James 5:17 – 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 land for three years and six months.

Romans 5:3–5 (ESV) - “Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.”

1. Rely on God's presence 1 Kings 17

1 Kings 17:1 – And Elijah the Tishbite, of the inhabitants of Gilead, said to Ahab, “As the Lord God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, except at my word.”

1 Kings 17:2-4 – Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, “Get away from here and turn eastward, and hide by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan. And it will be that you shall drink from the brook, and I have commanded the ravens to feed you there.”

1 Kings 17:5-7 – **So he went** and did according to the word of the Lord, for he went and stayed by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan. The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning, and bread and meat in the evening; and he drank from the brook. And it happened after a while that the brook dried up, because there had been no rain in the land.

1 Kings 17:8-9 - Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, “Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. See, I have commanded a widow there to provide for you.”

1 Kings 17:10 - So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, indeed a widow was there gathering sticks. And he called to her and said, "Please bring me a little water in a cup, that I may drink."

1 Kings 17:14 – For thus says the LORD God of Israel; "The bin of flour shall not be used up, nor shall the jar of oil run dry, until the day the LORD sends rain on the earth."

1 Kings 17:20-21 - Then he cried out to the Lord and said, "O Lord my God, have You also brought tragedy on the widow with whom I lodge, by killing her son?" And he stretched himself out on the child three times, and cried out to the Lord and said, "O Lord my God, I pray, let this child's soul come back to him."

1 Kings 17:22 - Then the Lord heard the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came back to him, and he revived.

1 Kings 17:24 - Then the woman said to Elijah, "Now by this I know that you are a man of God, and that the word of the Lord in your mouth is the truth."

2. Rely on God's provision 1 Kings 18

1 Kings 18:17-19 – Then it happened, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said to him, "Is that you, O troubler of Israel?" And he answered, "I have not troubled Israel, but you and your father's house have, in that you have forsaken the commandments of the LORD and have followed the Baals. Now therefore, send and gather all Israel to me on Mount Carmel, the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal, and the four hundred prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table."

1 King 18:24 – "then you call on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the LORD; and the God who answers by fire, He is God."

1 Kings 18:39 - Now when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces; and they said, "The Lord, He is God! The Lord, He is God!"

Hebrews 5:8-9 – "Though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him."

3. Rely on God's power 1 Kings 19

1 Kings 19:3-4 – And when he saw that , he arose and ran for his life, and went to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and left his servant there. But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he

prayed that he might die, and said, "It is enough! Now, LORD, take my life, for I am no better than my fathers!"

1 Kings 19:5 – Then as he lay and slept under a broom tree, suddenly an angel touched him, and said to him, "Arise and eat."

1 Kings 19:6 - Then he looked, and there by his head was a cake baked on coals, and a jar of water. So he ate and drank, and lay down again.

1 Kings 19:9 - And there he went into a cave, and spent the night in that place; and behold, the word of the Lord came to him, and He said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

1 Kings 19:10 - So he said, "I have been very zealous for the Lord God of hosts; for the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life."

1 Kings 19:11-12 - Then He said, "Go out, and stand on the mountain before the Lord." And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice."

LifeGroup QUESTIONS:

BEGIN IT – (5min) Time for one praise song & opening prayer.

- OPEN IT- (10min) - What's your go-to pastime when you're stuck at home?

EXPLORE IT- (60min) – Review Sunday's sermon outline and answer the following questions. Make sure to give time for individual comments and questions:

1. What is hope?
2. How should Christian hope affect a person's attitude toward his or her current circumstances or goals?
3. What keeps us from being full of joy and hope in the middle of difficult circumstances?
4. How could you help someone who has drifted away from his or her relationship with Christ?
5. In what difficult circumstances do you need to stop grumbling and stay focused on hope in Christ?

APPLY IT- (15min) - Try reaching out to a family member, friend, or neighbor this week and find out what ways you can spread hope to them this week? Invite them to Hope Chapel's Harvest of Hope month.

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