



Sermon Study Guide

Sunday, July 12, 2020

Desiring the Kingdom: From Death to Life

1 Kings 17: 17-24

Key verse: *And the Lord listened to Elijah. And the life of the child came into him again, and he revived.* 1 Kings 17:22 (ESV). **Key idea:** As the widow of Zarephath's son is raised from death to life, we see a picture of what Jesus does for us, and the hope we have in the gospel.

Read through 1 Kings 17:17-24. We also recommend watching Sunday's sermon again on the White Fields website, YouTube channel, or Facebook page. Pause the video, reflect on, and discuss areas that challenge you or speak to you in a significant way.

1. In his message, Pastor Nick stated, *"Suffering nags us with questions about God in a way that comfort never could."* Do you agree with this statement? Has there been a time in your life where you have questioned God's presence and/or His willingness to help?

2. C.S. Lewis said, *"We can ignore our pleasure. But pain insists on being attended to. God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our consciences, but shouts in our pains: it is his megaphone to rouse a deaf world"* Relate this statement to our experiences now concerning the Covid-19 outbreak and the social unrest throughout the world. Do you believe God has caused these things to happen? Why or why not? What is God's part in this time of crisis?

3. Read 1 Kings 17:17-19 aloud. Elijah asked the widow to "Give me your son." Elijah, as the prophet of God, spoke for God. If this story is interpreted as revival from spiritual death, how is Elijah's request to the widow relatable to God's request to us? What are we asked to give to God? What is God's promise to us if we give Him what He requests of us? Read John 6:35 and discuss how this speaks to this question.

4. Read 1 Kings 17: 20-22 aloud. This passage encourages us to pray in times of trouble. In what ways do you pray? Is prayer an important part of your relationship with God? Do you believe God hears your prayers? Do you believe God answers prayers?

5. Read Ephesians 2:4-10 aloud. What does it mean that we are "created in Christ Jesus for good works"? What does it mean that "we should walk in them"? Pastor Nick said that God has a purpose for your life. What actions can you take to fulfill God's purpose for your life?

Continue to pray for our pastors, the members of our church, and our community. Pray that our church will be a refuge to those seeking to find and draw closer to God.