

## You Are There:

### Elijah

November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2011

- **The Provision**

**1 Kings 17:8-16** Then the LORD said to Elijah, <sup>9</sup> "Go and live in the village of Zarephath, near the city of Sidon. I have instructed a widow there to feed you." ... "Would you please bring me a little water in a cup?" <sup>11</sup> As she was going to get it, he called to her, "Bring me a bite of bread, too." <sup>12</sup> But she said, "I swear by the LORD your God that I don't have a single piece of bread in the house. And I have only a handful of flour left in the jar and a little cooking oil in the bottom of the jug. I was just gathering a few sticks to cook this last meal, and then my son and I will die."<sup>13</sup> But Elijah said to her, "Don't be afraid! Go ahead and do just what you've said,..."<sup>16</sup> There was always enough flour and olive oil left in the containers, just as the LORD had promised through Elijah.

- **The Challenge**

**1 Kings 18:16-21** Ahab went out to meet Elijah. <sup>17</sup> When Ahab saw him, he exclaimed, "So, is it really you, you troublemaker of Israel?" <sup>18</sup> "I have made no trouble for Israel," Elijah replied. "You and your family are the troublemakers, for you have refused to obey the commands of the LORD and have worshiped the images of Baal instead. ..."<sup>20</sup> So Ahab summoned all the people of Israel and the prophets to Mount Carmel. <sup>21</sup> Then Elijah stood in front of them and said, "How much longer will you waver, hobbling between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him! But if Baal is God, then follow him!" But the people were completely silent.

- **The Contest**

**1 Kings 18:36-39** ...<sup>36</sup> At the usual time for offering the evening sacrifice, Elijah the prophet walked up to the altar and prayed, "O LORD, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, prove today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant. Prove that I have done all this at your command. <sup>37</sup> O LORD, answer me! Answer me so these people will know that you, O LORD, are God and that you have brought them back to yourself." <sup>38</sup> Immediately the fire of the LORD flashed down from heaven and burned up the young bull, the wood, the stones, and the dust. It even licked up all the water in the trench! <sup>39</sup> And when all the people saw it, they fell face down on the ground and cried out, "The LORD—he is God! Yes, the LORD is God!"

- **Elijah Flees**

**1 Kings 19:1-8** When Ahab got home, he told Jezebel everything Elijah had done, including the way he had killed all the prophets of Baal. <sup>2</sup> So Jezebel sent this message to Elijah: "May the gods strike me and even kill me if by this time tomorrow I have not killed you just as you killed them." <sup>3</sup> Elijah was afraid and

fled for his life. <sup>7</sup> Then the angel of the LORD came again and touched him and said, "Get up and eat some more, or the journey ahead will be too much for you." <sup>8</sup> So he got up and ate and drank, and the food gave him enough strength to travel forty days and forty nights to Mount Sinai, the mountain of God. <sup>9</sup> There he came to a cave, where he spent the night.

- **The Lord Speaks**

**1 Kings 19:10-13** But the LORD said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" <sup>11</sup> "Go out and stand before me on the mountain," the LORD told him. And as Elijah stood there, the LORD passed by, and a mighty windstorm hit the mountain. It was such a terrible blast that the rocks were torn loose, but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. <sup>12</sup> And after the earthquake there was a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire there was the sound of a gentle whisper. <sup>13</sup> When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.

### **Life lessons From Elijah:**

*Elijah chose to work alone and paid for it with isolation and loneliness.*

*We are never as alone as we may feel; God is always close.*

*God speaks more frequently in gentle whispers than the dramatic.*