



“Is Your Hiding Place Dry?”

Text: I Kings 17:1-7
Sermon Text: I Kings 17:3,7

Where is your hiding place? Where is that private spot where you feel safe and secure? Is there a location where you can hide and no one nor nothing can invade your space? At different points in each of our lives when life's conditions seem to negatively impact our lives, we feel we need to just get away. All of us have sought solace from the challenges we must face and endure by seeking a safe place, a comfort zone.

In this morning's sermon we learn how one of the greatest prophets of all time was led to a hiding place by God. The prophet was Elijah. He was the first in a long line of important prophets God sent to Israel and Judah. Israel, the northern kingdom, had no faithful kings throughout its history. Each king was wicked, actually leading the people in worshipping pagan gods. With no king or priest to bring God's words to the people, God called prophets to try to rescue Israel from its moral and spiritual decline. Elijah was sent to confront, not comfort, and he spoke God's words to a king who often rejected his message just because he brought it. Elijah spoke very directly and strongly for God to His children, but his bold behavior caused him to often times be isolated from others who were also faithful to God.

King Ahab and Queen Jezebel were rulers who worshipped and turned the people of Israel to worshipping the idol god Baal. Elijah, in our text for the morning, tells King Ahab to turn to God or He will cause a drought across the land. He prophesied this drought and everything began to dry up. It is at this point, God tells Elijah that he must leave and he would show him to a "hiding place." A place where King Ahab could not find and kill him. God led Elijah to the Cherith Creek. God led him in the hiding place with bread, which was brought by ravens and his thirst was quenched by waters from the creek. Since Elijah had prophesied no rain, the drought affected his hiding place and the creek dried up and he must have felt like his blessings were limited.

God provided everything Elijah needed to survive in the hiding place. The question which is so significant for you and me, when God leads us to a safe hiding place where blessings are in abundance and then the blessings stop flowing or dry up - - "what do we do?"

There have been and will be periods in your life where you have or will throw up your hands and seek the comfort of friends, a secluded place, a mind altering drug, or maybe even a dark hole of depression. Initially you feel good, because no one can get to you. You have everything you need in "your hiding place." You feel that you are being blessed and that everything will be alright. But what happens when your hiding place dries up and the blessings stop flowing? That's where Elijah was, when the Cherith Creek dried up while he was hiding. All he had done for the Lord and now he was going to die in the hiding place which God had provided.

When your hiding place dries up and blessings are at a trickle:
Don't lose faith in the fact that if God can lead you to a hiding place, He certainly can take care of your every need, regardless of how bleak the conditions may appear.

When all hope seems gone, call on the Lord. (Jeremiah 33:3)

Be still and know that God is there with you. (Ps. 46:10; I Kings 19:7-13)

God will always bless those whom He chooses. (Ps. 65:4; Eph. 1:2,4)

Your hiding place will never stay dry if you obey the Word of God.

(Ps. 119:2; Matt.16:2; Luke11:28; Rev. 1:3)

Know that wherever you are right now in your life whether it is a drought or a flood, God will provide and protect you. (2 Tim. 4:16-18; Ps. 37:17,24; Ps. 63:8; Pro. 3:26;14:26)

GOD WILL MEET AND BLESS YOU IN YOUR HIDING PLACE!

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