

3rd Week of May
[The Marvelous Miracle of Obedience](#)

- **Text:** 1 Kings 17:7~16 (May 15 text)
- **Bottom line:** God has a special love for those who obey Him.

≡ **1. Praise**

(Hymn 70)

≡ **2. Prayer**

Thank you, God, for allowing our family to believe in and worship you, the Lord of this world. Please make it a time for us to love You more and help us live by faith.

≡ **3. The Word**

1 Kings 17:7~16 (Read the verse 3 times).

* Reading the Word over and over again in different translations will help you to deepen your understanding of the material.

<ESV>

7 And after a while the brook dried up, because there was no rain in the land. 8 Then the word of the Lord came to him, 9 "Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. Behold, I have commanded a widow there to feed you." 10 So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, a widow was there gathering sticks. And he called to her and said, "Bring me a little water in a vessel, that I may drink." 11 And as she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, "Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand." 12 And she said, "As the Lord your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. And now I am gathering a couple of sticks that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it and die." 13 And Elijah said to her, "Do not fear; go and do as you have said. But first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterward make something for yourself and your son. 14 For thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, 'The jar of flour shall not be spent, and the jug of oil shall not be empty, until the day that the Lord sends rain upon the earth.'" 15 And she went and did as Elijah said. And she and he and her household ate for many days. 16 The jar of flour was not spent, neither did the jug of oil become empty, according to the word of the Lord that he spoke by Elijah.

<Korean Bible>

7 But it happened after a while that the brook dried up, because there was no rain in the land. 8 Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, 9 "Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and stay there; behold, I have commanded a widow there to provide food for you." 10 So he arose and went to Zarephath, and when he came to the entrance of the city, behold, a widow was there gathering sticks; and he called to her and said, "Please get me a little water in a cup, so that I may drink." 11 As she was going to get it, he called to her and said, "Please bring me a piece of bread in your hand." 12 But she said, "As the Lord your God lives, I have no food, only a handful of flour in the bowl and a little oil in the jar; and behold, I am gathering a few sticks so that I may go in and prepare it for me and my son, so that we may eat it and die." 13 However, Elijah said to her, "Do not fear; go, do as you have said. Just make me a little bread loaf from it first and bring it out to me, and afterward you may make one for yourself and for your son. 14 For this is what the Lord, the God of Israel says: 'The bowl of flour shall not be used up, nor shall the jar of oil become empty, until the day that the Lord provides rain on the face of the earth.'" 15 So she went and did everything in accordance with the word of Elijah, and she and he and her household ate for many days. 16 The bowl of flour was not used up, nor did the jar of oil become empty, in accordance with the word of the Lord which He spoke through Elijah.

Understanding Text

Northern Israel suffered from a severe drought due to lack of rain. Elijah followed God's word and met a widow in Zarephath and asked her for bread and water. The woman obediently made bread with the last of the ingredients and served Elijah. Then, as God said, a miracle happened that the flour and oil did not run out.

□ Understanding the text for leaders

Ahab, the king of northern Israel, worshipped Baal and Asherah fervently with his queen Jezebel (1 Kings 16:30~33). So, in that age, the priests who worshipped Baal prevailed, and most of the people forgot God and worshiped Baal and Asherah. At this time, God raised up Elijah to show Himself that God is the only living being. Today's text is very significant: Baal and Asherah are gods of fertility and abundance, and they were worshipped in the agricultural society of Canaan. At that time, people worshipped Baal and Asherah more than ever before, but ironically, northern Israel was suffering from severe drought. In such a situation, God shows us through Elijah that He is the only one who sends rain and makes the earth's produce abundant. When everyone was starving because of a drought, God sent Elijah to a widow in Zarephath. She was a very poor widow who had nothing but flour and food for her son. Elijah preached the word of God and asked God to make bread for him, which was like asking a widow for everything he had. Unlike Ahab and the disobedient Israelites, the Gentile widow in the land of Sidon believed and obeyed Elijah in her desperate situation. Then God performed an amazing miracle of supplying the woman with flour and oil until the day of the rain. God is the one who gives grace and saves those who listen to and obey His word even in the midst of drought and famine.

4. Sharing

1) The widow of Zarephath obeyed Elijah and became the hero of a miracle (verses 13~16). If I had been that woman, how would I have responded to Elijah's request?

■ Upper Grades

What gift did God give to the widow who obeyed His word and entertained Elijah? (verse 16).

■ Lower Grades

What happened to the widow who obeyed God's word and entertained Elijah? (verse 16).

□ Question Guide

The drought and famine that came during the time of worshipping Baal and Asherah, the gods of fertility, were God's discipline to enlighten the Israelites. Show God through the weakest and poorest widow that He alone provides for food.

□ Comments for Leaders

Even today, people are scrambling to gain prosperity, abundance, and blessings. But we must remember that it is ultimately God who blesses us and enriches us. As you see that northern Israel, which worshipped Baal and Asherah, the gods of fertility and fertility, is facing the worst drought and hunger, confess that God is the only one who sends rain and gives food.

2) Have you ever experienced something that you have no choice but to confess as God's grace? Share your own experiences.

■ Upper Grades

Give thanks and confess that God has given you everything you eat and enjoy now.

■ Lower Grades

Before eating, I said, "God, thank you for the delicious food!" Pray.

□ Question Guide

Be specific about what you take for granted right now. When we look at what we eat, what we wear, where we sleep and rest, where we work, and what we have health, we can confess that they are all gifts from God.

□ Comments for Leaders

When we look back at the rice, vegetables, and meat that are on the table every time, the work we go to and the school we go to every day, and the health we have to work, we can confess and be grateful that everything we have is God's grace. Take a look back at the things you take for granted and give thanks to God. It will be an expression of faith that acknowledges the sovereignty of God that everything comes from God and that He is in control. When you confess specific things with your lips, your faith in God will become clearer.

5. Be grateful

Say a prayer of thanksgiving, remembering that everything we enjoy is from God.

6. Prayer

God, we confess that it is Your great grace that we eat, sleep, work, and live our daily lives normally. We confess that You are the only one who provides for all our needs at the right time. Help us live a life of obedience and gratitude to Your Word.

- End the family worship service with the Lord's Prayer

