

THE LIFE OF ELIJAH

"God's Boot Camp"

1 Kings 17:1-7

INTRODUCTION:

1. **Jeroboam promoted idolatry.**

- a) The worship of idols.
- b) Definition - *"And Idol is an unauthorized NOUN, that person place or thing that you look to, to be the source of your needs."*

2. **1 Kings 17:1**

- a) The Tishbite - we know that Elijah was a country boy.
- b) **16:30-31**

3. **17:1**

- a) *"There shall be neither dew nor rain these years except by my word."*

4. Boot Camp refers to the initial instruction of new military recruits.

- a) It is a physically and psychologically intensive process, which revolutionizes its subjects for unique demands of military employment.

5. The isolation of location, the absence of comforts of home, the relentless, monotonous repetition of inspection, and ***the tests that force a recruit to encounter the unknown without showing fear***, yielded powerful dividends.

6. **Vs 2**

7. So if I were God, I would have kept Elijah right where he was with his finger in Ahab's face.

8. Who else was going to stop Ahab?

- a) Nobody in Israel wanted to confront the king's idolatrous ways or cruelty against the people of Israel.

9. **Isaiah 55:8-9**

10. **Vs 3**

- a) What??

11. **KNOW THIS:** God's plan is always full of surprises and mystery!

12. **VERY IMPORTANT:** God had a plan He needed to accomplish deep within Elijah!

- a) God wanted Elijah to go deeper. God was doing something in Elijah!!

- 1) God wanted Elijah to go deeper so that he would be able to accomplish deeper things.
- 2) Things that would prepare Elijah for encounters that might intimidate a less-obedient, less committed, and less prepared servant.

b) **WOW** - God wants us to go deeper!!

- 1) God does not want us to be satisfied with *mediocrity*!!!

13. So in order to prepare Elijah for the challenges ahead....He sent Elijah away to a place of isolation, hidden from everyone, where he would not only be protected from physical danger but would be better prepared for a greater mission. **ELIJAH MUST GO DEEPER**

14. **VERY IMPORTANT:** For a godly hero to be useful as an instrument of significance in the mighty hand of God, he must be able to trust God.

- a) *Hebrews 11:1; 6*

15. **A.W. Tozier said this:** *"It's doubtful that God can bless a man greatly until He has hurt him greatly"*

- a) Listen Up: the deeper the hurt, the greater the usefulness.

16. **Vs 3**

- a) **"Cherith"** - means **"To cut down"**

17. **WOW!!!** Even though Elijah was God's spokesman, he needed to be closer to God.

- a) **17:1**

- 1) **"Elisha"** - means **"The Lord is my God"**

- b) **Vs 24**

- 1) **"Now I know that you are a man of God"**

18. Now as a result of Basic Training @ Camp Cherith, he is addressed as **"a man of God"**.

- a) In **Vs 1** he is simply Elijah from Tishbe and now **Vs 24** he is a man of God.

- b) So between **Vs 1 and Vs 24** is Elisha's bootcamp experience.

19. **VERY GOOD:** *When difficult things happen in our lives, it's not evidence of something that is wrong, but proof that something is right.*

- a) Going through tough times is often the greatest expression of the love of the Almighty.

20. We are aware of the miracles God will soon perform through Elijah, But in order to carry those assignments out Elijah has some learning to do first.

- a) Elijah is about to learn - **FOUR PRINCIPLES OF FAITH**

I. ELIJAH NEEDED TO LEARN FEARLESS FAITH

1. Remember Elijah is God's mouth piece, His Voice.
2. 18:4
 - a) Cf, 17:1
 - 1) "*As the Lord God of Israel*"
 - 2) "*Years*"
3. Elisha said "**NO RAIN**" take that Baal and your girlfriend Ashura.
4. 18:1
 - a) It did not rain for 3 years.
5. Now remember Baal and Ashura were boyfriend and Girlfriend and were fertility gods who controlled the weather and the rain.

II. ELIJAH NEEDED TO LEARN BY FAITH TO BE PATIENT

1. 1 Kings 17:2-3
2. Any recruit will tell you that point of the training is taking orders from someone who tells you what to do and how to survive.
3. God told Elijah exactly where to go and what to do when he got there and how to survive.
4. Vs 3
 - a) "*and hide yourself*" - literally means to be absent on purpose.
5. We must have FAITH and remember God has reasons for commands.
 - a) He wanted to hide Elijah from Ahab. #1
 - b) He wanted Elijah to grow spiritually. #2
 - 1) To become a better man of God.
6. When God impresses on us to "*hide ourselves*"
 - a) He has protection and training in mind.

III. ELIJAH NEEDED TO LEARN BY FAITH TRUST IN GOD'S PROVISION

1. Vs 3

2. Vs 4a

a) *"You shall drink from the brook."*

3. Vs 4b

a) *"and I have commanded the ravens to feed you there."*

1) That's NOT normal!!!

5. Vs 5-6

a) God has provided Elijah with a Raven catering service.

b) The Ravens will feed you!! Sandwiches!!!! Incredible!!!!

6. God makes **PROVISION** for Elijah's *physical life* as well as his *spiritual life*.

a) God is taking Elijah deeper!!!!

7. AND there's another deeper message for all of us!!

a) Vs 4

1) *"I have commanded the Ravens"*

b) **Deuteronomy 14:11-14**

1) Do not touch the unclean thing.

8. What does this tell us??

9. **WOW!!! GOD CAN USE WHAT HE WANTS TO MEET YOUR NEED**

a) Just remember that God is your source and EVERYTHING ELSE is your RESOURCE.

IV. ELIJAH NEEDED TO LEARN BY FAITH TO TRUST GOD'S CONTROL

1. Vs 7

2. **LESSON:** Just because we are saved doesn't mean we won't go through tough times.

CONCLUSION: *What did Elijah learn from Boot Camp?*

1. AS BELIEVERS WE NEED FEERLESS FAITH

2. AS BELIEVERS WE MUST LEARN TO BE PATIENT

3. AS BELIEVERS WE MUST LEARN THAT GOD IS OUR SOURCE

4. AS BELIEVERS WE MUST UNDERSTAND THAT GOD IS IN CONTROL

DO YOU LOVE JESUS??? Get ready for Boot Camp!!