



The Ministry of Elijah

Lesson 2: The LORD is My Gracious God

Introduction: Inspector Javert and Jean Valjean

I. Elijah Confronts Ahab - I Kings 17:1-6

A. The Background of Elijah

B. The Nature of God's Challenge to the King

1. Understanding the importance of rain in Middle East
2. A direct assault upon the deity of Baal
3. Deut. 11:16-17 - a fulfillment of a promise

C. God's Grace to Elijah

1. God also was seeking to strengthen his servant's faith
2. A miracle, in that ravens usually are "ravenous"

Digging Deeper 1:

Think of some of the ways God's power directly challenges ideas, religions, and philosophies in our world today. ("Man proposes, but God disposes.")

Digging Deeper 2:

What encouragement for our own lives can we glean from James 5:17, as he comments on Elijah's actions

II. Elijah in Zarephath - I Kings 17:7-16

A. God Shows His Grace

1. In Elijah's life
2. In the woman's life

Digging Deeper 3:

Read Ephesians 1:19-23. How do we see those truths at work in the ministry of Elijah? How do we see them at work today?

Digging Deeper 4:

Read 17:13 again. What can you learn from that in dealing with people who are non-churched?

B. God's Higher Purpose

1. The testing/strengthening of Elijah's faith
2. The bringing to faith of the widow (note irony)

Digging Deeper 5:

Read Jesus comments on this incident in Luke 4:16-26.

- What basic point was Jesus making?

- Compare Deut.32:21 and Romans 11:11-14.

III. A Time of Trouble - I Kings 17:17-24

A. The Natural Mind's Reaction to Trouble

B. "Grace upon Grace"

1. To the widow
2. To Elijah

Digging Deeper 6:

Why did Jesus perform miracles? Why is that important to remember in our world?

Digging Deeper 7:

How does this section illustrate the truth of 1 John 3:19-24?