Psalters: 168:1,2,3 - 144:1,4 - 17:1,2,3,4 - 426:1,2,4 - 426:5,7,9

Scripture: 1 Kings 17:1-16

**THE WORD OF THE LORD IN THE LIFE OF THE WIDOW OF ZAREPHATH**

1. **The Word of the Lord spoken *about* her**

* Note the reason why Elijah is at the brook Cherith (I Kings 16:30).
  + Solemn warning: idol worship -> bring God’s wrath upon yourself (16:33)!
  + God’s longsuffering (cf. Exod. 34:6).
* Who would have a happier life? Elijah or Ahab (Ps. 84:10-12; Ps 119:72; Ps. 37:16-17)?
* Brook dries up.
  + God was teaching Elijah to live only by faith in God.
  + He waited patiently upon the Lord (cf. Ps. 37:3,5,7; Ps 123:2; Isa. 40:31; Jer. 14:20).
* Where Elijah had to go (9a)
  + Elijah must travel through the region of Samaria *right through the den of the lion* (cf. 1 Pet. 5:8).
  + Final destination is even more puzzling!
* To whom he had to go (9b-10)
  + This woman was unknown to *Elijah*, but known by the *Lord*.
  + Spiritual lesson: leave place of sweet provisions of the Lord and go to another place of impossibility.
    - Learn that their boast is in the Lord alone (cf. Eph. 2:8-9).

1. **The Word of the Lord spoken *to* her**

* How will Elijah know which widow will be the one that the Lord has chosen?
  + Prayer and providence (cf. Gen. 24:12).
  + Test of faith.
* Reveals death (11-12).
* Addresses her fear and calls for a believing obedience (13).
  + Need to give up everything of self, so that He may give you life eternal (Lk. 12:32-33).
* Promise of life (14).
  + The God of Israel has shown that He is the living God, Whose word is truth. (Deut. 11:16-17; cf. 1 Ki. 8:35).

1. **The Word of the Lord confirmed unto her**

* She acted in faith upon the promise.
  + Sinners who by God’s Spirit bow under God’s justice, and who believe God’s promised mercy, will not perish, but live.
* She has to learn to live a dependent life upon the God of Israel.
* We need to be delivered from the power of darkness, and to be translated into the kingdom of the dear Son of God (Col. 1:13).
* Be not like the people of Nazareth who neglected so great salvation (Heb. 2:3; Lk. 4:18-26).
* May not rest in sweet experiences; only in Christ
* Children of the Lord: learn to live a life of dependence; always remember that His grace is sufficient for thee (II Cor. 12:9; Acts 17:28).