

Hiding In Plain Sight

Ponder: When heavenly wisdom makes no earthly sense.

Scripture: "Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. See, I have commanded a widow there to provide for you" (1 Kings 18:9, NKJV).

By the word of the Lord, Elijah called for a prolonged drought to discipline wayward Israel and its depraved king, Ahab. Then God sent the prophet into hiding to prevent Ahab from murdering him. No doubt the Lord could have transported Elijah miraculously to some remote location far from Ahab's domain. He chose, instead, to secure him beside a brook that flowed into the Jordan River, using ravens to bring him food twice daily.

When the drought dried up the brook, God took care of Elijah in a most unusual way that flew in the face of all human wisdom. He sent him to Zarephath where He had commanded a widow to provide for him. Does that make sense to you?

First, we wouldn't normally think of a widow having the resources to feed and house Elijah. Widows in ancient times seldom enjoyed very much material wealth. When the breadwinner passed away, the widow depended on her children and the generosity of friends and neighbors. Widows with young children might suffer greatly unless they married again.

Of greater concern, however, would be the location of Zarephath. It "belonged" to Sidon, being only ten miles down the Mediterranean coast from that major Phoenician city. Wicked King Ahab's father-in-law was Ethbaal, king of the Sidonians (1 Kings 16:31). If you were Elijah, would you want to be as far from Ahab and Jezebel's influence as possible? In Zarephath, the prophet would be "hiding in plain sight"!

Human wisdom would say Elijah should head another direction and find a rich person with the means to supply his needs. Elijah, however, walked by faith. The Lord said, "Arise and go to Zarephath." "So he arose and went" (1 Kings 18:9, 10).

It really is just that simple. Either we walk by faith or we walk by sight. Do you trust God enough to do what His word says, even when it doesn't make sense to you at the moment?

Hymn: "Trust And Obey"

Prayer: Wise Heavenly Father, help us to trust and obey like Elijah did. Keep us from the way which seems right to us, but ends in death. In Jesus' name, Amen.