Disciple's Quest

If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine.

John 8:31

July 15, 2018

Prerequisites for Effective Personal Ministry - Part 1

1 Kings 17

Main Idea:

As we work our way through 1 Kings and consider Elijah's life as a fugitive, we will learn what God requires of us as His believing people to be truly useful in His service.

Outline:

Prerequisite One: To be truly useful in God's service, we must be in the process of being actively discipled by Him.

At Cherith, three things happened that were critical in Elijah's preparation for continuing in ministry:

- 1) Elijah listened to the word of God.
- 2) Elijah spent time alone with God.
- 3) Elijah observed God's providence.

Prerequisite Two: To be truly useful in God's service, we must continually walk by faith and not by sight.

Elijah's journey from Cherith to Zarephath teaches us three lessons about walking by faith instead of by sight:

- 1) To walk by faith requires that you trust God even when do not understand all the details of His plan.
- 2) To walk by faith requires that you recognize that the human notions of blessing and security are fatally short-sighted.
- 3) Walking by faith is a step by step journey.

Questions for further contemplation and application following the message:
1) What similarities do you find between Elijah's training at Cherith and Zarephath and the training the disciples experienced from Jesus in the gospels?
Describe your own training as a disciple.
2) Why are we so quick to run away from the Cherith or Zarephath like places/seasons in life?
How can we be better prepared to hold fast and learn through challenging times?
Have you recently experienced the strengthening and joy of spending extensive time alone with God?
3) What are some of the challenges you have experienced to walking by faith and not by sight?
What have you learned about remaining faithful in your faith journey through Elijah's example?
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