

Sermon Title: YWCTW: Remembering & Serving the Forgotten

Scripture: 1 Kings 17:1-24

The Forgotten: consistently or circumstantially vulnerable people in need of **advocacy.**

*God at work through **calamity**:*

Now Elijah the Tishbite, from Tishbe in Gilead, said to Ahab, “As the Lord, the God of Israel, lives, whom I serve, there will be neither dew nor rain in the next few years except at my word.”
1 Kings 17:1

God **confronts through calamity.**

The sky over your head will be bronze, the ground beneath you iron. ²⁴**The Lord will turn the rain of your country into dust and powder**; it will come down from the skies until you are destroyed.

Deuteronomy 28:23-24

God **cares through calamity.**

Then the word of the Lord came to Elijah: ³“Leave here, turn eastward and hide in the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan. ⁴You will drink from the brook, and I have directed the ravens to supply you with food there.” ⁵So he did what the Lord had told him. He went to the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan, and stayed there. ⁶The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning and bread and meat in the evening, and he drank from the brook.
v2-6

Who provides food for the raven when its young cry out to God and wander about for lack of food?

Job 38:41

God cares for His people through **ordinary & **supernatural** ways.**

You **are not forgotten!**

“Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? **Though she may forget, I will not forget you!** ¹⁶See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands; your walls are ever before me.
Isaiah 49:15-16

*God at work through **Elijah**:*

Some time later the brook dried up because there had been no rain in the land. ⁸Then the word of the Lord came to him: ⁹“Go at once to Zarephath in the region of Sidon and stay there. I have directed a widow there to supply you with food.” ¹⁰So he went to Zarephath. When he came to the town gate, a widow was there gathering sticks. He called to her and asked, “Would you bring me a little water in a jar so I may have a drink?” ¹¹As she was going to get it, he called, “And bring me, please, a piece of bread.” ¹²“As surely as the Lord your God lives,” she replied, “I

don't have any bread—only a handful of flour in a jar and a little olive oil in a jug. I am gathering a few sticks to take home and make a meal for myself and my son, that we may eat it—and die.”¹³ Elijah said to her, “Don't be afraid. Go home and do as you have said. But first make a small loaf of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me, and then make something for yourself and your son.”¹⁴ For this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: ‘The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the Lord sends rain on the land.’”¹⁵ **She went away and did as Elijah had told her. So there was food every day for Elijah and for the woman and her family.**¹⁶ For the jar of flour was not used up and the jug of oil did not run dry, in keeping with the word of the Lord spoken by Elijah.
v7-16

Elijah ministered to the widow and her son & was ministered to by the widow and her son.

*“Until we embrace **our mutual brokenness**, our work with low-income people is likely to do more harm than good. I sometimes unintentionally reduce poor people to objects that I use to fulfill my own need to accomplish something. I am not okay, and you are not okay. But Jesus can fix us both.”*

-Steve Corbett & Brian Fikkert. When Helping Hurts: How to Alleviate Poverty without Hurting the Poor...and Yourself

Obedience doesn't prevent pain, but it can further blessing.

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v8-12

God hears the cries of people.

“Do not mistreat or oppress a foreigner, for you were foreigners in Egypt.”²² “Do not take advantage of the widow or the fatherless.”²³ If you do and they cry out to me, **I will certainly hear their cry.**

Exodus 22:21-23

Some time later the son of the woman who owned the house became ill. He grew worse and worse, and finally stopped breathing.¹⁸ She said to Elijah, “What do you have against me, man of God? Did you come to remind me of my sin and kill my son?”

¹⁹“Give me your son,” Elijah replied. He took him from her arms, carried him to the upper room where he was staying, and laid him on his bed.²⁰ **Then he cried out to the Lord,** “Lord my God, have you brought tragedy even on this widow I am staying with, by causing her son to

die?” ²¹ Then he stretched himself out on the boy three times and cried out to the Lord, “Lord my God, let this boy’s life return to him!”

²² **The Lord heard Elijah’s cry**, and the boy’s life returned to him, and he lived. ²³ Elijah picked up the child and carried him down from the room into the house. He gave him to his mother and said, “Look, your son is alive!”

²⁴ Then the woman said to Elijah, “Now I know that you are a man of God and that the word of the Lord from your mouth is the truth.”

v17-24

But when the set time had fully come, **God sent his Son**

Galatians 4:4

You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, **Christ died for the ungodly**.

Romans 5:6

Jesus is **God’s answer** to the cry of humanity & eternity.

God’s people are to care for others through **ordinary & supernatural** ways.

God at work through us:

Schedule Remembrance.

Remember God’s grace.

I cared for you in the wilderness, in the land of burning heat. ⁶ When I fed them, they were satisfied; when they were satisfied, they became proud; then they forgot me.

Hosea 13:6

Arrogance leads to amnesia.

Remember the forgotten.

All they asked was that we should continue to remember the poor, the very thing I had been eager to do all along.

Galatians 2:10

Pray for Direction.

Elijah was a human being, even as we are. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. ¹⁸ Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.

James 5:17-18

Schedule Service.

I assure you that there were many widows in Israel in Elijah’s time, when the sky was shut for three and a half years and there was a severe famine throughout the land. ²⁶ Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow in Zarephath in the region of Sidon.

Luke 4:25-26

Do for **one what you wish you could do for many.**