

Grace required that she serve the prophet by daily preparing his meal. When God saved us by such radical grace, there is a requirement that we serve Him with whatever grace resources He's given us.

# THE WORKS OF MERCY

Pastor Steve Martin

## Lamentations 3:22-23 (ESV)

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

God's mercy is not just something He has; it's something He is. The Hebrew word for mercy is KHEH-sed - the word could be translated steadfast love or covenant loyalty.

In a world where everything is in a state of decay, God's mercies are at work in His people to renew His creation to the state He originally intended.

**I Kings 17:1** - Elijah - his name means "the LORD is God." His very name corresponds to his ministry. He was sent by God to confront Baal and to declare to all Israel that the LORD is God and there is no other.

**James 5:17** - Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months.

Elijah was not just a prophet proclaiming the drought. Through his prayers, he actually caused the drought!

**Notes:**

Elijah was not acting unilaterally and decreeing without God's permission as if God's hand was forced to obey a human prophet.

A decree is an official pronouncement by one with authority that determines an outcome.

When we pray, we come into alignment with God's will. The power is not in the decree; the power is in the agreement.

Any kingdom authority we have to do anything on this earth flows out of our relationship with God.

**James 5:17-18** - Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months. Then he prayed again, and the sky poured rain and the earth produced its fruit.

Earnest means serious, sincere, heart-felt, deeply committed. These are not casual prayers.

God eventually brought the rain. But notice, the rain came because he prayed again. The prayer was not only earnest but it was consistent.

Through his encounter with Elijah, King Ahab was extended mercy.

God's mercy opens the door for His grace. Mercy makes grace possible.

**Hebrews 4:16** - Therefore let's approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace for help at the time of our need.

Mercy is not getting what we deserve. Grace is getting what we don't deserve.

### **1 Kings 17:8-14**

**Biblical Principle:** When God gives you the vision, He will provide the provision. Sometimes your provision will come in the most unlikely places through the most unlikely people.

This story teaches us that God's mercies never fail, they never run out, and that His mercies will sustain us when everything around us shouts: "all is lost!"

God had chosen this gentile woman for more than a miracle. She was not elected merely to be saved by grace in the famine, but to serve by grace in the famine.