



A Chronicle of Faith

1 Kings 17:8-20

God Never Abandons Us

- **When Solomon died, civil war broke out and the nation became divided:**
 - A northern kingdom which retained the name Israel and was governed from Samaria.
 - A southern kingdom referred to as Judah and was governed from Jerusalem.
- The northern kingdom, Israel, had nineteen kings, and all of them were wicked.
- Elijah's name means "The Lord is my God."
- Even though we may drift far away, God never abandons us.
- Israel worshipped Baal, who was the god of rain and fertility.

Living A Life of Faith Requires Obedience

- After delivering God's message to Ahab, God tells Elijah to run out into the wilderness.
- When God provided for his physical needs, God told Elijah to go to Zarephath in Sidon, and find a widow.
- Zarephath was noted for the furnaces where skilled craftsmen worked with metals.
- Faith is no faith until there is obedience.
- Elijah chose to go where God was sending—even if it was an unlikely place.

You Cannot Get A Blessing Without Being A Blessing

- Acting in faith, Elijah became a blessing to the widow.
- The giver and the receiver eventually switched positions.
- You cannot be a giver, unless at some point you are willing to put your pride aside and become a receiver.
- It requires obedience to see the blessing of faith.
- Elijah's faith brought this pagan woman to faith.

Conclusion

- **Three lessons learned from this chronicle of faith:**
 - God has not abandoned us.
 - The life of faith requires obedience.
 - To get a blessing, we must be a blessing.
- **It is not the amount of faith we have that matters; it is the measure of the God in which our faith resides.**
- **Elijah's faith was in the God who could give the rain or stop the rain; in the God who could overcome death with life.**