

**MONDAY:** Invitation to Empty

Receive this Invitation:

It is an awful feeling to pour a bowl of cereal, open the fridge, reach for the milk and find the carton empty. Or make a cup of coffee and realize you have no cream. It's so frustrating, right? It sure seems like a sign of how the rest of your day is going to go.

For most of us running out of groceries is an easy situation to rectify. Shoot, these days you can click or scroll, and someone will deliver it to your front door. But what if you couldn't? What if there were not the funds to simply restock your pantry? What if there was a severe drought that led to a famine? What if you were about to make your last meal with the very last of your supplies?

That is exactly the situation that the woman in 1 Kings 17 finds herself in. The prophet Elijah was directed by the Lord to go to the Kerith Ravine east of the Jordan River. As the drought continued and conditions worsened, God sent Elijah to Sidon (modern day Lebanon) and told him that he would find a widow that would supply him with food. Sidon was a country that did not worship the God of Israel. They worshipped Baal. It seems a strange place for God to send His prophet. An unlikely place for a faithful follower of God to find provision.

God's provision for Elijah is astounding. Yet the story of the Widow is even better. First Kings 17:9 says, "I have commanded a widow in that place to supply you with food." This widow was a Gentile. She was not a part of the tribes of Israel. She lived in a place that worshipped fickle gods. She was in a place of desperation. When Elijah meets her she is about to prepare the last meal her rations can afford for herself and her son. Can you imagine that? Knowing you can only feed your child one more meal. God spoke to her heart so that when Elijah asked her for bread she said yes. She fed her family and Elijah for "some time". The "jar of flour was not used up and the jug of oil did not run dry." (1 Kings 17:16)

The story doesn't end there. The son of the Widow becomes ill and eventually dies. She believes her own sin must have caused the God of Elijah to kill

her son. But God. Elijah carries the boy to the room he was staying in and cries to the Lord three times.

The Lord heard Elijah's cry, and the boy's life returned to him, and he lived. 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!" 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." 1 Kings 17:22-24

Can you even believe this story?!? Not only did these miraculous things minister to Elijah and prepare him for what was ahead in his life, but it completely changed the lives of this widow and her family. Do you think she ever forgot what God had done for her? For her son? I can tell you she did not. In fact, she probably told everyone that would listen about that time during the drought when the God of Israel fed her and then raised her son from the dead. Do you believe that God can do the same for you? Maybe you are like the widow and God is not what you know. Maybe you have been in church your whole life and heard this story before. God doesn't care which one you are. God cares that you might be willing to give Him a shot. God cares that you step out on a limb and trust Him. God wants you to know Him as Jehovah-jireh, the God who provides. He will meet you where you are.

(Emily Trotter)

**TUESDAY:** Read, Reflect, Respond, and React

**Read:**

*Read these passages of Scripture.*

*Some Greeks who had come to Jerusalem for the Passover celebration paid a visit to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee. They said, "Sir, we want to meet Jesus." Philip told Andrew about it, and they went together to ask Jesus. Jesus replied, "Now the time has come for the Son of Man to enter into his glory. I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat is planted in the soil and dies, it remains alone. But its death will produce many new kernels—a plentiful harvest of new lives. Those who love their life in this world will lose it. Those who care nothing for their life in this world will keep it for eternity. Anyone who wants to serve me must follow me, because my*

*servants must be where I am. And the Father will honor anyone who serves me. "Now my soul is deeply troubled. Should I pray, 'Father, save me from this hour'? But this is the very reason I came! Father, bring glory to your name." Then a voice spoke from heaven, saying, "I have already brought glory to my name, and I will do so again." When the crowd heard the voice, some thought it was thunder, while others declared an angel had spoken to him. Then Jesus told them, "The voice was for your benefit, not mine. The time for judging this world has come, when Satan, the ruler of this world, will be cast out. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself." He said this to indicate how he was going to die. The crowd responded, "We understood from Scripture that the Messiah would live forever. How can you say the Son of Man will die? Just who is this Son of Man, anyway?" Jesus replied, "My light will shine for you just a little longer. Walk in the light while you can, so the darkness will not overtake you. Those who walk in the darkness cannot see where they are going. Put your trust in the light while there is still time; then you will become children of the light." After saying these things, Jesus went away and was hidden from them.*

(John 12:20-36, NLT)

**Reflect:**

*Write your thoughts about this passage.*

**Respond:**

*Pray this prayer.*

○ Ever-blessed Trinity, One God, you have given me bread in my hunger and drink in my thirst. I call to mind all your love and gentleness and compassion, in which you have led me and guided me until now. With all my heart I pray for greater gifts of your grace and more overflowing treasure of your love. Dwell in me more and more, as the Lord of the harvest and the vintage, that I may wash my robe in wine and my clothing in the blood of the grape.

Give to me, as you only can give, the blessings of heaven above, and the blessings of the deep that lie beneath. In the morning let me rise with you in faithfulness, that in the evening I may rest safely with you in love and joy and peace. ○ God, my soul rests in you.

(Thomas Aquinas)

**React:**

*How will you humble yourself today?*

**WEDNESDAY:** Read, Reflect, Respond, and React

**Read:**

*Read these passages of Scripture.*

*Now Jesus was deeply troubled, and he exclaimed, "I tell you the truth, one of you will betray me!" The disciples looked at each other, wondering whom he could mean. The disciple Jesus loved was sitting next to Jesus at the table. Simon Peter motioned to him to ask, "Who's he talking about?" So that disciple leaned over to Jesus and asked, "Lord, who is it?" Jesus responded, "It is the one to whom I give the bread I dip in the bowl." And when he had dipped it, he gave it to Judas, son of Simon Iscariot. When Judas had eaten the bread, Satan entered into him. Then Jesus told him, "Hurry and do what you're going to do." None of the others at the table knew what Jesus meant. Since Judas was their treasurer, some thought Jesus was telling him to go and pay for the food or to give some money to the poor. So Judas left at once, going out into the night. As soon as Judas left the room, Jesus said, "The time has come for the Son of Man to enter into his glory, and God will be glorified because of him. And since God receives glory because of the Son, he will give his own glory to the Son, and he will do so at once.*

(John 13:21-32, NLT)

**Reflect:**

Write your thoughts about this passage.

**Respond:**

Pray this prayer.

Teach us, O Lord, the way of your statutes, and make us keep it unto the end. Incline our hearts to your testimonies, and cause us to go in the path of your commandments, for therein is our desire. May the law of your mouth be dearer unto us than thousands of gold and silver; and let your Holy Spirit accompany your Word with saving power to our souls, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Augustus Toplady)

**React:**

How will you humble yourself today?

does not need to wash, except for the feet, to be entirely clean. And you disciples are clean, but not all of you." For Jesus knew who would betray him. That is what he meant when he said, "Not all of you are clean." After washing their feet, he put on his robe again and sat down and asked, "Do you understand what I was doing? You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and you are right, because that's what I am. And since I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other's feet. I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you. I tell you the truth, slaves are not greater than their master. Nor is the messenger more important than the one who sends the message. Now that you know these things, God will bless you for doing them.

(John 13:1-17, NLT)

**Reflect:**

Write your thoughts about this passage.

**THURSDAY:** Read, Reflect, Respond, and React**Read:**

Read these passages of Scripture.

Before the Passover celebration, Jesus knew that his hour had come to leave this world and return to his Father. He had loved his disciples during his ministry on earth, and now he loved them to the very end. It was time for supper, and the devil had already prompted Judas, son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. Jesus knew that the Father had given him authority over everything and that he had come from God and would return to God. So he got up from the table, took off his robe, wrapped a towel around his waist, and poured water into a basin. Then he began to wash the disciples' feet, drying them with the towel he had around him. When Jesus came to Simon Peter, Peter said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus replied, "You don't understand now what I am doing, but someday you will." "No," Peter protested, "you will never ever wash my feet!" Jesus replied, "Unless I wash you, you won't belong to me." Simon Peter exclaimed, "Then wash my hands and head as well, Lord, not just my feet!" Jesus replied, "A person who has bathed all over

**Respond:**

Pray this prayer.

Almighty and everlasting God, who has given unto us your servants grace, by the confession of a true faith to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity, and in the power of the divine Majesty to worship the Unity; we ask you that you would keep us steadfast in this faith, and evermore defend us from all adversities, who lives and reigns one God, world without end. Amen!

(George Whitefield)

**React:**

How will you humble yourself today?

**FRIDAY:** Read, Reflect, Respond, and React

**Read:**

*Read these passages of Scripture.*

*Inside, the high priest began asking Jesus about his followers and what he had been teaching them.*

*Jesus replied, "Everyone knows what I teach. I have preached regularly in the synagogues and the Temple, where the people gather. I have not spoken in secret. Why are you asking me this question? Ask those who heard me. They know what I said." Then one of the Temple guards standing nearby slapped Jesus across the face. "Is that the way to answer the high priest?" he demanded. Jesus replied, "If I said anything wrong, you must prove it. But if I'm speaking the truth, why are you beating me?" Then Annas bound Jesus and sent him to Caiaphas, the high priest.*

(John 18:19-24, NLT)

**Reflect:**

*Write your thoughts about this passage.*

**Respond:**

*Pray this prayer.*

O Christ, the only begotten Son of the Father, who for us was slain, the innocent for the ungodly, remember the price of your blood, and blot out the sins of all your people.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who has promised forgiveness of sins to all those that with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto you, have mercy upon your servants. Do not deal with them according to their sins, nor reward them according to their iniquities, but according to your gentleness and ineffable love, blotting out the handwriting that is against them, deliver them from all their sins; give life to your servants whose death you in no wise desire, and plant in them the fear of your blessed commandments, that they may say and do always such things as shall well please you, and come at last to your eternal joy, through Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Redeemer. Amen.

(Marvin R. Vincent)

**React:**

*How will you humble yourself today?*

**SATURDAY:** Read, Reflect, Respond, and React

**Read:**

*Read these passages of Scripture.*

*"For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him."*

(John 3:16-17, NLT)

**Reflect:**

*Write your thoughts about this passage.*

**Respond:**

*Pray this prayer.*

Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, look upon us and have mercy upon us. By your agony and bloody sweat; by your cross and passion; by your precious death and burial; by your glorious resurrection and ascension; and by the coming of the Holy Ghost, save those whom you have redeemed, O Savior of the world, who are with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.

(Marvin R. Vincent)

**React:**

*How will you humble yourself today?*