

Message Notes

UNDERCURRENT

Part 4: Upper Rooms – Where Faith Is Tested

1 Kings 17:17-24

November 11/12, 2017

Pastor Daniel Hahn

In the epicenter of tragedy:

1. Paying attention to what's going on in our hearts can make all the difference between remaining bitter and receiving God's help (17:17-18).

Consider: what is the source of my suffering?

- Am I hurting because someone else has hurt me unjustly?
- Could it be that my suffering is due to my own choices?
- Is my hurt naturally caused by living in a fallen world?
- Am I suffering because of love?
- Is my suffering a direct result of my faith in Jesus?
- Is this some sort of direct spiritual attack?
- Could this be God's discipline in some way to get me back on track?

2. Crying out to God is the only thing that makes sense in the midst of what makes no sense to us (17:19-21).

"One thing we may be sure of, however: For the believer all pain has meaning, all adversity is profitable. There is no question that adversity is difficult. It usually takes us by surprise and seems to strike where we are most vulnerable. To us it often appears completely senseless and irrational, but to God none of it is either senseless or irrational. He has a purpose in every pain He brings or allows in our lives. We can be sure that in some way He intends it for our profit and His glory." – Jerry Bridges

3. In any and every situation God's options are light years ahead of our imaginations (17:22-23).

"The spiritual life cannot be made suburban. It is always frontier and we who live in it must accept and even rejoice that it remains untamed." -- Howard Macey

4. It is only in our unsolvable problems that we ever come to recognize God's unlimited power (17:24).

"There are no formulas with God. Period. So there are no formulas for the man who follows Him. God is a Person, not a doctrine. He operates not like a system-not even a theological system-but with all the originality of a truly free and alive person." – John Eldredge, Wild At Heart

5. It is life's relentless pain that gives us an appetite for God's redemptive plan.

"There is no greater disaster for the human heart than this-to believe we have found life apart from God. ... And so, whatever else might be the reasons for our disappointments, there is no question that God uses them to draw us to Himself – to wean our hearts from every other perceived source of life, so that we might come to find our life in Him. -- John Eldredge, Walking with God

Discussion Questions

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Take some time to read over the passage from 1 Kings 17:17-24.

1. What was something you recall from last week's sermon?
2. The woman and Elijah had witnessed powerful evidence of God's love and provision just prior to this. What was that?
3. How did the woman respond when her son died? What sort of assumptions do we tend to make when we're hit by tragedy?
4. Why do you think God might have allowed this woman's son to die and then to be brought back to life when He could have prevented the kid from dying in the first place?
5. What sort of things do we discover about God that can only be understood in a context of loss or suffering?
6. What do we learn about responding to crisis by Elijah's example?
7. How did the woman respond when her son was healed?
8. What has God used in your life to show you His care and provision? How has that grace strengthened your faith?
9. What are you facing now that may be God's way of increasing your trust as you seek Him and wait for His answers?