

Daily Bread
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Read 1 Kings 17:8-16

Picture this: a college student walks on a busy highway overpass on a blustery fall day in Minnesota. Her last dollars purchased shampoo at Target and now she is headed back to her dorm. Each step is accompanied by prayer, asking God why He would call her to a life of poverty (A.K.A. church work). But as she walks, something on the sidewalk catches her eye. A \$20 bill lying in the middle of the sidewalk. Seeing no one around her, she picks it up. And then she realizes the immediacy of God's answer to her prayers. Yes, He was calling her to a life that might not be filled with lots of extra - it was only \$20 after all. But it was more than enough for the day.

This personal experience is something that I had learned theoretically in Sunday School and Lutheran day school from the Bible narrative of Elijah and the Widow of Zarephath. Elijah's personal knowledge of God's daily provision grew as he was fed in the desert by God's creation. And in our reading for this day, God provides for the widow and her son with His amazing "daily bread." 1 Kings 17:16 says, "The jar of flour was not spent, neither did the jug of oil become empty, according to the word of the Lord that he spoke by Elijah." But that day I realized I was experiencing that same provision from the hand of God.

Like the widow, the son, and Elijah, I have been blessed to know God's care. So have you. Maybe it's not in a Grub Hub raven bringing you dinner, or the never-empty flour and oil reserves. Or even the \$20 on the sidewalk. But we have all had our "daily" needs provided for in His creation, through the God-given ability to earn a wage, and from the hands of those around us that bless us greatly. And Jesus himself tells us in John 6:35 that He is the Bread of Life, our Daily Bread for our needs both physical and spiritual. When we start to worry or doubt God's daily care for us, we only have to look at His word to know that He truly does know our needs and provide for us.

Psalm 145:15 – 16 says, "The eyes of all look to You, and You give them their food in due season. You open Your hand; You satisfy the desire of every living thing." Thank You, dear Father, for Your faithful, daily, rich blessings. Amen.