



The Mar Thoma Church
Diocese of North America & Europe
Christian Education Forum

Lenten Meditations

MAN OF DIFFERENCE

1 Kings 17 :1-24

Elijah lived at the time of King Ahab. The Queen Jezebel aggressively promoted Baal worship as state ideology. The word Elijah means 'Yahweh is my king'. For him king and his kingdom are under Yahweh.

1. Elijah – a poor but an obedient prophet with a great mission.

We see him struggling for basic sustenance in life. The prophet is provided strength not by big resources but by meager natural resources. He is being fed by ravens who can bring only very little quantity of food. This food along with water in the creek stands against the big land lordism and big business of the royal powers. Ahab and Jezebel who claim to be powerful is not in position to make rain happen, whereas the fleeing prophet is fed by the same nature. God is not acting supernaturally but he is providing resources through nature. Elijah had only limited needs and sustains with very little resources. We have uncontrollable needs. Lent is a season, which teaches us lessons about simplicity and about nature.

2. Elijah – a blessed presence in a crisis situation

When the Creek dries up he is asked to go to Zarephath, because God has commanded a widow to feed him. The story tells that the widow is also in abject poverty and is starving to death. She is collecting sticks and dry twigs and preparing the last meal for her and her son. When the creek dries up, we expect Elijah to live in conditions but the realities leave us dazed, hurting and confused. The widow gets a great blessing by the presence of the prophet. 'The jar of meal will not be emptied and the jug of oil will not fail until the day that the Lord sends rain on earth.' (V 14). Also the widow's son is brought back to life.

The team Elijah is frustrated and timid and the players are ravens, a small creek, and an ill fated widow. They are presented against a team of royal powers. But the team of powerlessness and simplicity eventually wins because God of justice is with them. We want to see trees always with fruits, streams full of water, new cars in every garage, chickens always in our pots, a robust economy, new construction boom. But that need not happen always and the story of Elijah helps us to see ways of God, work of God, word of God and also the wonders of God.

Prayer: O Lord, give us the power to live a life of simplicity and powerlessness amidst affluence and pomp and be different in all our ways. Amen

Rev K. C. Varughese. Boston

“For this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the LORD sends rain on the land.’”

1 Kings 17:14