

Rolling Hills Community Church
Audacious Faith
February 5, 2012

“And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.” Hebrews 11:6

Elijah: A man of Faith

1 Kings 17

“Now Elijah the Tishbite, from Tishbe in Gilead said to Ahab, ‘As the Lord, the God of Israel, lives, whom I serve, there will be neither dew nor rain in the next few years except at my word.” Vs. 1

- **Elijah was an ordinary man that God used in an extraordinary way**
 - Elijah’s name literally means, “The Lord is my God.”
 - The Bible tells us, “*Elijah was a man just like us.*” **James 1:17**
- **Ahab was the king of Israel. Here’s what the Bible tells us about Ahab:**
 - “*Ahab son of Omri did more evil in the eyes of the Lord than any of those before him. He not only considered it trivial to commit the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, but he also married Jezebel daughter of Ethbaal king of the Sidonians, and began to serve Baal and worship him. He set up an altar for Baal in the temple of Baal that he built in Samaria.*” **1 Kings 16:30-32**
- **God sent Elijah to announce judgment on Israel for worshipping Baal**
 - Powerful judgment since Baal was considered the god of fertility and lord of the rain clouds, demonstrating Baal powerless to the One True God.

God is always faithful to His people

“Then the word of the Lord came to Elijah, ‘Leave here, turn eastward and hide in the Kenith Ravine, east of the Jordan. You will drink from the brook, and I have ordered the ravens to feed you there.’ Vs. 2-4

Faith always involves obedience

“Elijah said to her, ‘Don’t be afraid. Go home and do as you have said. But first make a small cake of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me, and then make something for yourself and your son. 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 Lord gives rain on the land.’ She went away and did as Elijah had told her.” Vs. 13-15

As a follower of God, we are always called to pray, to have faith and to act

“‘Give me your son,’ Elijah replied. He took him from her arms, carrying him to the upper room where he was staying, and laid him on his bed. Then he cried out to the Lord, ‘O Lord my God, have you brought tragedy also upon tis widow I am staying with, by causing her son to die?’ Then he stretched himself out on the boy three times and cried to the Lord, ‘O Lord my God, let this boy’s life return to him! The Lord heard Elijah’s cry, and the boys’ life returned to him, and he lived.’ Vs. 19-22

When we act in faith, God always receives the glory

“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 true.’” Vs. 24

Taking It Home

God calls all of us to a life of faith. A relationship with God begins with faith. The Bible says in Ephesians 2:8-9, "For it is by grace you are saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is a gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast." As God draws us to Himself, we are called to respond in faith. But, that is just the beginning of the journey. Our relationship with God is all about faith. In fact, Hebrews 11:6 says, "And without faith it is impossible to please God." This is a time for us to grow our faith; and not just a small faith, but an audacious faith. Faith calls us to pray, to believe and to act. As we do, we see God do miracles. Let's grow in our faith!