

Bible Class Notes – Studies in 1 and 2 Kings – Lesson 119

Sin and its Cure

This week – Ahab was taught of God yet willingly rejected Him and sinned greatly. What of us?

Elijah said unto king Ahab, “As the LORD God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word.” 1 Kings 17v1

Bible Readings for this week:

(Choose a regular time each day to read the Bible and pray whether it be when you first wake up or just before you go to sleep)

Day	Bible Reading	Tick When Read
Sunday	1 Kings 16v29-34 (Ahab-more evil than previous Kings)	
Monday	1 Kings 17v1-9 (The Lord miraculously provides)	
Tuesday	1 Kings 17v10-24 (Miraculous provision continues)	
Wednesday	Matthew 6v1-15 (The ‘model’ concepts of prayer)	
Thursday	Matthew 6v16-23 (Make Jesus Christ your treasure)	
Friday	Matthew 6v24-34 (No man can serve two masters)	
Saturday	Exodus 20v1-17 (God’s Holy Law stands today)	

Important Thought for us Today: Do you realise what a privilege it is to have heard the Gospel? What have we done with this knowledge? It is no trivial matter to reject the Lord's gracious kindness and forgiveness. Ahab wilfully chose all that was against God, even though he had been taught of God. He proudly rejected God to his eternal disaster. **What will we do?** What would be our epitaph? How do we react when confronted by the Gospel call? Will we continue with Ahab and Jezebel in proud unbelief, rejecting God's offer of forgiveness, or will we humbly respond today with sincere obedience and faith as the widow did? God has promised to hear and answer the prayer of a repentant sinner.

David wrote, “I acknowledge my sin unto Thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord; and Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.” Psalm 32v5.

Hymn 417 calls us to see our hearts as God sees them, calling us to repentance.

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| <p>1. LORD, from Whom there's nought concealed,
Who sees my inward frame;
To Thee I always stand revealed
Exactly as I am!</p> | <p>2. Since I, at times, can hardly bear
What in myself I see;
How vile and foul must I appear,
Most holy God, to Thee!</p> |
| <p>3. But since my Saviour stands between,
Who shed His precious blood,
'Tis He, instead of me is seen,
When I approach to God.</p> | <p>4. Thus, though a sinner, I am safe:
He pleads before the throne
His life and death on my behalf,
And calls my sins His own.</p> |

The Sin of Rejecting God.

o Background to the events of today's lesson.

King Solomon, King of all Israel, died about 933BC. God judged the rebellious sin of the people by splitting Israel into two Kingdoms – 10 Tribes formed Israel to the north, (centred around Samaria); whilst Benjamin and Judah formed Judah to the south, (centred around Jerusalem). Each kingdom now had its' own King.

God viewed the succeeding 6 Kings of the new Israel to Solomon as evil. Yet none were as evil in God's sight as King Ahab (875BC.)

o Ahab turned his back on his privileges and committed great sin:

- **A New Queen** – Jezebel, taken from idolatrous Zidon, against God's command. She brought the worship of the idol Baal to Israel, along with her idol's priests.
- **A New 'god'**. Ahab built a Temple to Baal in Samaria. Soon shrines to Baal (groves), were built in many places, and the people were encouraged to turn away from the one true God to worship Baal. Rejecting God is a very serious sin.
- **New Ways** – Many children were offered in sacrifice to appease Baal. Murdered.

Are we any different today? Who, or what, do we love most and serve? A false god is anyone, or thing, which takes God's place. Worldly gods promise fun, pleasure, possessions; but cannot satisfy the longing of our soul. Worldly gods are as dead idols.

o Elijah, God's Prophet, was sent by God to confront Ahab and Jezebel.

- **Elijah's Message** – “God will withhold the dew and the rain for over 3 years”.

We are influenced today to think evil is good, and good is evil; to live as we please, without any consequences. We are told that, 'There is no God, so just do as you want'.

- **God's Protective Care for Elijah** from drought, starvation and Ahab's anger. He is sent to the Brook Cherith, and is miraculously fed by ravens.

When the brook dries up, he is then sent to the Widow of Zarephath where God miraculously feeds them; All 3 blessed by the Lord for their trusting faithfulness.

o A wonderful picture of the Lord's Saving Grace.

- **The Widow faced disaster, one meal left, then death.** *We face spiritual disaster.*
- **She could not save herself** – *We too are helpless; our righteousness cannot save.*
- **She obeyed Elijah precisely** – *We must obey God precisely going in faith to Calvary.*
- **Her trusting obedience brought life** – *Only trusting and obeying the Saviour saves us.*
- **Her rescue brought Joy** – *Receiving God's forgiveness brings eternal joy as we experience forgiveness of sin, and a change of heart worked in us by The Holy Spirit.*

God has promised to save, guard, guide, and keep all who repent and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ as their Saviour and Lord. God always keeps His promises.

Jesus said, “Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.”