

Heart Matters – Faith that stands firm

1 Kings 17: 1 - 5

1. God speaks

- Through Elijah to Ahab
- Elijah knew God and knew about God
 - i. The Lord
 - ii. The God of Israel
 - iii. The one who lives
 - iv. The one who created and controls nature
- No rain for the next few years. A direct challenge to Baal the god who 'provided fertility'

2. God cares

- Leave, turn and hide!
- Elijah was an unpopular presence
 - i. For Ahab
 - ii. For the people in Israel
- Water from the brook, food from the ravens

3. Elijah obeys

- He did what the Lord had told him!
- He stayed there and waited
- Alone but provided for

4. Elijah has a heart for God

- He responded to God's leading
- He trusted God with his life
- He was willing to be patient

Week 2 – 1 Kings 17: 1 – 5

1. What were the risks Elijah was taking when he spoke to King Ahab?
2. How do we know when it is the right time to speak up and challenge?
3. We don't read that God had told Elijah that there would be no rain for the next few years. Read Deuteronomy 11: 13 – 21 – what does this tell us about Elijah? How do we use God's word today when engaging with a culture which is increasingly ungodly?
4. Psalm 86:17 reminded us that David asked God for a sign of his goodness, that his enemies may see it and be put to shame. What sign might we ask God for today?
5. Read Matthew 6: 25 – 43. How does Elijah's experience mirror this passage? Do we believe that God really cares and provides for us?
6. What did Elijah need to overcome within himself to be able to obey God? Are these feelings and emotions that we are willing to overcome so that we stand firm in our faith?
7. At this point Elijah appears to be acting alone. What situations do you face where you feel isolated and alone? How do we help one another in this?