

Message Notes

“God’s Mountain Man”

1 Kings 17:1

August 14, 2016

An Anxiety of Our Age: Will Saints Be Allowed to Stand Publicly

- ◆ **We Would Resist This Injustice**
 - ◆ **Against “Historically Black Colleges”**
 - ◆ **Assuming a Public Good**
- ◆ **We Should Resist This Interference**
 - ◆ **The Particular Challenge: California HB1146**
 - ◆ **The Profound Concern**

“SB1146 . . . would severely restrict the ability of religious education institutions to set expectations of belief and conduct that align with the institution’s religious tenets. This legislation puts into principle that majoritarian beliefs are more deserving of legal protection and that minority viewpoints are deserving of government harassment. . . . Some of us disagree with the sexual ethics of orthodox Jews, Christians and Muslims giving rise to this legislation, but we are unified in our resistance to the government setting up its own system of orthodoxy. Where the state can encroach on one religion’s free exercise, it can just as easily trample on any other religion’s free exercise.”

(“Protecting the Future of Religious Higher Education”
Open Letter Published By Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission [SBC])
- ◆ **We Could Rely on This Inspiration: Elijah’s Witness**

“Never was Israel so blessed with a good prophet as when it was plagued by a bad king.”

(Matthew Henry)

An Appearance in Another Age: A Saint Who Stood Prophetically

And Elijah the Tishbite, of the inhabitants of Gilead. (1 Kings 17:1a NKJV)

- ◆ **His Place Fashioned Him**

“Gilead was a place of solitude and outdoor life, a place where people would likely have been rugged, tanned from the sun, muscular and leathery. It was never a place of polish, sophistication and diplomacy. It was an austere land, and one senses that Elijah’s appearance was in keeping with that.”

(Chuck Swindoll)
- ◆ **His Parents Blessed Him**
 - ◆ **Their Unique Decision: “Name Him Elijah”**
 - ◆ **Their Universal Declaration: “Model Our Faith”**
- ◆ **His Prayer Focused Him**
 - ◆ **He Knew His Circumstances (Death at Jericho)**
 - ◆ **He Knew His Scripture (Drought in the Land)**

“Take heed to yourselves, lest your heart be deceived, and you turn aside and serve other gods and worship them, lest the LORD’s anger be aroused against you, and He shut up the heavens so that there be no rain, and the land yield no produce, and you perish quickly from the good land which the LORD is giving you.”

(Deuteronomy 11:16-17 NKJV)

So then faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

(Romans 10:17 NKJV)

◆ The Pronouncement That Marked Him

“As the LORD God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, except at my word.”

(1 Kings 17:1b NKJV)

◆ The Situation He Grieved

◆ The Sentence He Gave

“In other words, if the God of Israel lives, this is going to take place. If the God of Israel does not live, then it will rain as usual. This was a contest. Ahab doubted whether the God of Israel really lived or not. Elijah said, ‘You want to know if God is really living? Then it is not going to rain. If God is dead, then it will rain.’”

(William Varner)

An Affirmation for All Ages: For Saints Who Would Stand Personally

◆ God Is Alive

◆ Live Accordingly

◆ Trust Completely

“The real difference between Ahab and Elijah was not in their passion, but in the outlets for it. Ahab, incited by Jezebel, allowed it to ride him into appalling idolatry and unspeakable sin. Elijah, incited by the Spirit, allowed it to drive him to passionate prayer. It is not our passions that make or break us; it is the way they are channeled.”

(Harold W. Fife)

◆ God’s Word Is True

“Elijah was no super-saint; he simply had something that God could use. That something was faith in God’s Word. . . . a knowledge of God’s Word and a belief that God could be counted on to keep His Word.”

(William Petersen)

**“We can never be all that he was,
but we can be some of what he was.”**