

Title: **Who Will Stand With Me?**

Theme: Why Worry

Focal Scripture: 1 Kings 17-18

Date: September 23, 2012

Place: DCOG

Big Idea: Things may look tough but there is an end to the drought.

Tell the story of Elijah...

1 Kings 17:1

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."

1. Elijah went and hid in the Kerith Ravine, drank from the brook and was fed with bread and meat brought by the ravens.
2. When the brook dried up the Lord sent him to Zarephath.
3. He met a widow there who gave him water and took him in.
4. She only had a little meal and oil planning to eat her last meal with her son and then for the both of them to die.
5. Elijah asked her to fix some for him and God multiplied the flour and the oil and it did not go empty until the Lord brought rain upon Israel.
6. Then the widow's son got sick and died. She cried out to Elijah.
7. He went to the boy's room and called upon God and God raised up the boy.

1 Kings 17:24

²⁴Then 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 the truth."

Then in ***1 Kings 18...***

1. God told Elijah to confront King Ahab.
2. Obadiah, who was in charge of the king's palace was a good man. When Queen Jezebel was killing the Lord's prophets he hid 100 prophets, fifty each in two caves, providing them with food and water.
3. Now after a long time, King Ahab sends him out looking for more food and water. And Obadiah meets Elijah.
4. Elijah tells Obadiah to go get King Ahab but Obadiah is afraid. If Elijah isn't there when Ahab arrives he will probably kill Obadiah. Nevertheless, he goes to find Ahab.
5. When Ahab arrives...

1 Kings 18:17-18

¹⁷When he saw Elijah, he said to him, "Is that you, you troubler of Israel?"

¹⁸"I have not made trouble for Israel," Elijah replied. "But you and your father's family have. You have abandoned the LORD'S commands and have followed the Baals.

1. Meet me at the top of Mount Carmel with your 450 prophets of Baal and the 400 prophets of Asherah. (Who eat at Jezebel's table)

1 Kings 18:21

²¹*Elijah went before the people and said, "How long will you waver between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him."*

But the people said nothing.

1. Let's set up a contest. We will both submit offerings and the one whose God answers wins.
2. And Elijah won.

1 Kings 18:38-39

³⁸*Then the fire of the LORD fell and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and the soil, and also licked up the water in the trench.*

³⁹*When all the people saw this, they fell prostrate and cried, "The LORD--he is God! The LORD--he is God!"*

1. They killed the false prophets.
2. Ahab was sent home because it is going to rain.
3. Seven times Elijah sent his servant to look toward the sea.

1 Kings 18:44-45

⁴⁴*The seventh time the servant reported, "A cloud as small as a man's hand is rising from the sea."*

So Elijah said, "Go and tell Ahab, 'Hitch up your chariot and go down before the rain stops you.'"

⁴⁵*Meanwhile, the sky grew black with clouds, the wind rose, a heavy rain came on and Ahab rode off to Jezreel.*

*In 1973, 26-year-old director Steven Spielberg was hired to make a movie based on Peter Benchley's novel about shark

attacks called Jaws. The movie was so scary that even to this day millions of Americans panic when they get wind that a shark *might* be present in their beach area. A persistent shark phobia keeps people away from the beach.

An article in Foreign Policy magazine claims that on average less than one American (0.92 people) dies each year from a shark attack. So just in case you really need something better to worry about, here's a list of some items more likely than sharks to cause your death while living in the United States:

- ✚ Trampolines account for an average of 1.1 deaths per year.
- ✚ Roller coasters take 1.15 lives per year. So the article advises, "Keep your hands inside the car; your next thrill-ride could be to the coroner's office."
- ✚ Free-standing kitchen-range tip-overs cause 1.31 deaths per year.
- ✚ Vending machines account for 2.06 deaths per year. The article states, "So if those high-fat snacks don't take your life prematurely, rock or tilt that machine while looking for a freebie, and you'll be sleeping with the Pepperidge Farm goldfishes."
- ✚ Riding lawnmowers take 5.22 lives per year.
- ✚ Fireworks cause 6.6 deaths per year. Although, technically, these deaths were caused more by careless and impatient people who peered into the PVC piping because the fireworks didn't *seem* to be igniting. Most of these deaths occurred despite safety posters warning something like, "Fireworks Can Burn at 2,000°F—Hot as a Blow Torch!"
- ✚ Skydiving accidents account for 21.2 deaths per year.
- ✚ Getting crushed by a television or furniture causes an average of 26.44 deaths every year in the United States. This statistic led the comedian Stephen Colbert to issue a warning against the perils of "terrorist furniture."

* We worry about the faithfulness of our spouse, the longevity of our lives, the promise of a life-long job, the truthfulness of presidential candidates, and that overwhelming question, who will win “Dancing With The Stars?”

The story of Elijah teaches us some powerful truths about the care and concern of God.

I. If God desires to feed us, he can do it.

- ✠ What is it that we truly need in life and what does God actually want us to have?
- ✠ Can we trust him?

II. God is able to raise us from the dead.

- ✠ Although if we are with God, why would we want to?
- ✠ Can we trust him?

III. We need not fear even our worst enemies.

- ✠ What is the worst thing; that we go to be with God?
- ✠ Can we trust him?

IV. All of Satan’s servants and prophets will fail before God.

- ✠ There were three years of “no rain” but God delivered in a big way.
- ✠ Can we trust him?

* S. M. Lockeridge, Detroit 1976 – “You Can Trust Him”

He’s the one who made us; it is He who made us, and not we ourselves. The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament shows his handiwork. No means or measure can

define his limitless love and no far-seeing telescope can bring into visibility the coastlines of his shoreless supply. I'm telling you today, you can trust Him. - AMEN

No barrier can hinder Him from pouring out His blessing. He is enduringly strong and is entirely sincere. He is eternally steadfast and He is immortally graceful. He is imperially powerful and He is impartially merciful. He is the greatest phenomenon that has ever crossed the horizon of this world. He's God's Son. He's the centerpiece of civilization. I'm trying to tell you church, you can trust Him. - AMEN

He does not have to call for help. And you can't confuse Him. He doesn't need you and He doesn't need me. He stands alone in the solitude of Himself.

He's august and He's unique. He is unparalleled and He's unprecedented. He's supreme and He's pre-eminent. He's the loftiest idea in literature. He is the highest personality in philosophy. He is the supreme problem of higher criticism. He is the fundamental doctrine of true theology and He is the cardinal necessity of the spiritual religion. He is the miracle of the age. He is the superlative of everything good that you can call him. I am telling you, you can trust Him! - AMEN

He can satisfy all your needs. And He can do it simultaneously. He supplies strength for the weak and he is available for the tempted and the tried. He sympathizes and He sees. He guards and He guides. He heals the sick. He cleansed the leper. He forgives sinners. He discharges debtors. He delivers the captive. He defends the feeble. He blesses the young. He regards the aged. He rewards the diligent. He beautifies the meek. I'm trying to tell you church, you can trust Him! -AMEN

He is the key to knowledge. He is the wellspring of wisdom. He is the doorway of deliverance. He is the pathway of peace. He is the roadway of righteousness. He's the highway of holiness. He's the gateway to glory. You can trust Him! - AMEN

He's the master of the mighty. He's the captain of the conquerors. He's the head of heroes. He's the leader of legislators. He's the overseer of the overcomers. He 's the governor of the governors. He's the Prince of princes. He's the King of kings. He's the Lord of lords. You can trust Him! - AMEN

His office is manifold. His promise is sure. His life is matchless. His goodness is limitless. His mercy is everlasting. His love never changes. His word is enough. His grace is sufficient. His reign is righteous. His yoke is easy. His burden is light. I wish I could describe Him to you. He is indescribable because He is incomprehensible. He's irresistible because He is invincible. You can't get Him off your hands. You can't get Him off your mind. You can't out live Him. And you can't live without Him. Pilate couldn't find any fault in Him. The witnesses couldn't get their testimonies to agree. Herod couldn't kill Him. And death couldn't handle Him. And thank God the grave couldn't hold Him. - AMEN

There was nobody before Him and there will be nobody after Him. He has no predecessor. He'll have no successor. You can't impeach Him. And He's not going to resign. You can trust Him! – AMEN

Will you stand with Him?