

Everyday FAITH Family Page

3 in 1: Discovering Our Triune God

Key Point

God cared for Elijah through the widow and for the widow through Elijah. Through others, God cares for me.

Bible Words

[Cast] all your anxieties on Him, because He cares for you.
1 Peter 5:7

Law/Gospel

My sinful nature believes I deserve God's goodness. I am resentful when things do not go my way and when I encounter trials of any kind. **God sustains all things by His wisdom and power and, for the sake of His Son, causes all things to work together for good for me and all those who love Him, especially in the gift of faith through the power of the Word, that I might have life, now and forever.**

For the Whole World

Jesus said, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him."
John 3:16-17

God Cares for Us: Elijah and the Widow of Zarephath

1 Kings 17:8-24

Nobody cares about me! Most of us have felt like that at some time or another. Today's Bible text shows us that Someone always cares and helps us care for one another also.

God sent the prophet Elijah to tell wicked King Ahab that He would stop the rain in the land for years because of his evil ways. Then God sent Elijah away to the city of Zarephath, where He provided for him through the care of a widow who lived there.

As the widow cared for Elijah, God cared for the widow and her son as well. God constantly filled her supply of flour and oil, and it never ran out. Then the widow's son died, and in the midst of her sorrow, she probably thought, "Who will care for me now?" God again showed His love and care as He raised the widow's son back to life through Elijah.

In this way, God graciously provided for His people through the loving service of their neighbors. "He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life" (explanation of the First Article of the Apostles' Creed).

God Cares for All People

We may think that the Bible only tells about God's love for the Jewish people, or that bringing Gentiles into the Church began with the apostles.

However, both Old and New Testaments show God caring for and interacting with other nations. Non-Jews left Egypt with the Israelites (Exodus 12:38). The widow at Zarephath lived in Sidon, north of Israel. God sent Jonah to preach repentance in Nineveh, a foreign city (Jonah 1:2). Jesus told a Samaritan woman He is the Messiah (John 4:25-26). He healed a Canaanite's daughter (Matthew 15:22-28).

God extends His care, mercy, and salvation by grace through faith in Christ Jesus to all people.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for Your continual love and care. Thank You especially for sending Jesus to rescue us from sin and death through His work on the cross. Help us to love and care for others. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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