

## The Sound of Blessing

“And Elijah said to King Ahab, ‘Go, eat and drink, for there is the sound of a heavy rain” - 1 Kings 18:41



When I used to coach elementary age soccer, I remember my first ever practice. Why? Because I wasn't sure if the weather would cooperate. Dark clouds rolled in, and I started to feel some drops. Kids gathered, and as the rain intensified, I decided that we would wait it out in the church garage. Fortunately, it didn't last long and we were still able to have practice.

Rain was far from an inconvenience in Elijah's day. By his Word, that whole region had been without rain for 3 years. In fact, it was a demonstration of God's power over the idols that King Ahab and Jezebel worshipped. Baal was supposed to bring rain and prosperity, but Elijah was teaching them that they could only look to the God of Israel in times of need.

We might think of things we take for granted. The lush green grass, a good report card from our children or grandchildren, or a peacock strutting by with its gorgeous plumes, are all little blessings in life. The harsh reality of Elijah's day was that everything was barren and dry and there was little food. By telling the King to eat and drink, Elijah was saying, “You alone are able to eat and drink, but God is getting ready to bless the land”.

Soon, Elijah's servant discovers a cloud the, “size of a man's hand”, and pretty soon, the rain is coming down in sheets! How about us? Do we forecast good things ahead for us in our lives? Do we consider that today God will bless us in some way? Not all blessings are as dramatic as Elijah's, but all blessings have the same source in God.

Lent is a time of reflection. It's a time when we consider our own sin and fallen condition, in the face of God's abundant mercy in Christ. Lent brings perspective, vision and depth of meaning. As Lenten Christians, we have a deep sense of remorse for sin, but also gratefulness for the mercy that rains down in Christ.

What blessing are you waiting for today? Start with praise and worship of the Almighty. Then practice being thankful for everything you do have. Then consider that God is able at any time, to send blessings and in fact, He will, if we will just look for them and remember that He blesses in large and small ways. We look to Him as our keeper, provider and friend. We also trust that God has already gone into the future, and has good things planned for us. Like Elijah, we can hear the sound of big blessings ahead in your life and mine and every believer! Amen.

Have a blessed Lenten season,

Pastor Chris