



This week, we continued in our Faith FORWARD Future sermon series. Pastor Rob reiterated that that more often than not, an unconventional journey leads us to a faithful future. Using Alice Belle Garrigus, as an example, he said that her journey to Newfoundland was an unconventional journey for sure, but we are a product of her faith and obedience to God, as well as others.

He also noted what was stated in the previous message, and said, “Faith more often than not is blind...its sometimes about going backwards before you go forward into the future which is for the most part unknown. Yet the object of our faith is God who sees everything when we cannot” (cf. Hebrews 11:1).

With that thought in mind, Pastor Rob said that, “Faith isn’t about what we see; it’s about whom we serve. Faith is trusting completely in a God who sees everything, even when we cannot.”

The message continued in the narrative of Elijah, who was undoubtedly an unconventional character, with an unconventional faith story (cf. 1 Kings 17:9-16). The next stop on his journey led him to Zarephath and to a widow whom God would use to provide for his need.

We learned that, “Faith is not about seeing the bigger picture and then trusting God, it’s about trusting God one step at a time,” and that, “Sometimes God leads us to a place of provision, but more often than not, He leads us to a place of preparation, so He can lead us into His purpose.”

In the message, we saw that God used a widow to supply Elijah’s need and to reveal Himself to her. From that we learned that “If we are willing to give whatever we have to God, no matter how insufficient it may seem, He can take what we have and turn it into something greater.”

Wrapping up the message Pastor Rob highlighted God’s plan for Elijah, which involved a transition of his prophetic calling upon his successor, Elisha, who would do even greater things (cf. 2 Kings 2). From this, we learned that God has a greater purpose for our lives than we realize...It’s not always about what He is doing in us, as much as what He’s doing through us.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. What stood out to you from today’s message?
2. Since faith isn’t about seeing the bigger picture and then trusting God, what are some ways we can trust God and step out by faith? Are there examples in Scripture of people doing this? What can we learn from their experiences?
3. Why does God lead us to seasons of preparation? What kind of things does God teach when we find ourselves in a “Zarephath?” How does the truth found in Romans 8:28 and Romans 8:31 help us in those times?
4. What do you think about the idea that God has a greater purpose for our lives than we realize and that it’s not always about what God is doing in us, inasmuch as what He’s doing through us? What ultimate purpose does God have in mind for our lives?

This week take some time and prayerfully ask God what He wants to do in you right now, so He can work through you to impact others. Pray for the leadership of Bethesda - that we would walk by faith, taking one step forward at a time into in the direction that God would have us go in the future. Pray as well for future generations, that they would experience a faithful future because of the faith and trust we have in God right now.