

Caring for the Caregiver: *How About Those Who are Ministering?*

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1 Kings 17:1 – 19:18

INTRODUCTION

The story of Elijah: Caregiving is always about a person.

- The message of the Gospel through the life of Jesus Christ
- The present day revival and the ministry of all believers
- Ministry and the depletion of human reserves

I. THE INSPIRATION OF THE CAREGIVER: THE MOTIVATION FOR MINISTRY

- A. God uses human vessels to meet the needs of others (17:1; James 5:17).
- B. Effective ministry to others requires a word from God (17:1, 2).
- C. Caregiving entails accountability before God and man (17:1; 18:15).
- D. Personal authority, under God, gives credibility to ministry (17:1, 24).
- E. Validation for ministry comes from obedience to the Word of God (17:5; 18:1, 2).
- F. Sometimes caregiving involves prophetic confrontation (18:18, 21).
- G. God is the ultimate provider of ministry resources (17:6, 9).

II. THE ISOLATION OF THE CAREGIVER: THE CONSEQUENCE OF MINISTRY

- A. For the most part, caregiving is on a one-to-one basis (17:23).
- B. On occasion, caregiving involves ministry to a larger group of people (18:20, 21, 30, 39).
- C. To the exclusion of all others, the caregiver is ultimately responsible only to God (19:3, 4).
- D. Hard questions may arise even in the midst of meaningful ministry (17:18, 20; 18:12; 19:10).
- E. It is impossible to meet ministry needs in one's own strength (19:7).
- F. It is when we are alone that we are best able to hear the "still small" voice of God (19:13).
- G. Even though the caregiver may feel alone at times, God always has many others who are doing His work (19:18).

III. THE IMPACT OF THE CAREGIVER: THE LEGACY OF MINISTRY

- A. In supplying the needs of others, our own needs are met (17:9).
- B. Caregiving has many positive “long term” effects (17:15).
- C. Ministry to others builds faith in God and confidence in the caregiver (17:24; 18:39).
- D. Serving others opens the door to intimacy with God (19:11-13).
- E. A life of service has implications far beyond the present time and the perceived circumstances (19:15).
- F. Fulfilling ministry allows one to be an instrument of God (19:16a).
- G. God will always provide a caregiving successor (19:16b).