

The Belly of the Beast
1 Kings 17:7-16

The expression, “the belly of the beast,” often refers to being in a very _____ situation or _____ place. It is the center of enemy _____. Throughout the Bible, God often sends His _____ servants (Moses, David, Daniel and his three friends to name a few) into dangerous, difficult situations—the belly—to _____ the most obstinate, deadly beasts. Elijah experienced this over and over.

Elijah’s sojourn in Zarephath follows his first showdown with King _____ and his wife, _____. After pronouncing the judgment of a drought on King and country, God sent Elijah to the Kerith Brook where he would have water and would be fed by _____. Then God sent him to this town in Sidon to be fed by a _____. Jezebel was the daughter of the king of Sidon, and Sidon was a center of _____. Zarephath, which means “smelting shop,” may have been the _____ for Baal idols. Also, _____ were often the most economically distressed people. God was sending Elijah into the belly of the beast. He was also sending the widow to the belly. They both had to wait and see if and when God’s word would _____.

God-followers in Scripture don’t get to avoid the belly of the beast. Neither do believers _____. In fact, you may be thinking that you can feel a beast trying its best to _____ you right now! Will you _____ the Lord to find your way, or _____ Him in anger or desperation?

What is behind God sending His choicest children into the belly of the beast? Dr. Jim Denison wrote: “God either _____ our challenges or _____ them for larger purposes.”

In the end, the real beast we face is not any of these _____. The real beast—the only one that can _____ us—is our own _____ of _____; our tendency not to _____ _____. Faith is always _____ for anyone who dares to follow Christ.