

Tuesday 7th September 2021

Ruth 18: 8, 9 *“Then Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, ‘Go back, each of you, to your mother’s home. May the Lord show kindness to you, as you have shown to your dead and to me. May the Lord grant that each of you will find rest in the home of another husband.’”*

1 Kings 17: 15, 16 *“She went away and did as Elijah had told her. So there was food every day for Elijah and for the women and her family. For the jar of flour was not used up and the jug of oil did not run dry, in keeping with the word of the Lord spoken by Elijah.”*

1 Timothy 5: 3, 4 *“Give proper recognition to those widows who are really in need. But if a widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their own family and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God.”*

In biblical times the plight of a widow was not a happy one. Doomed to poverty and reliant on charity unless she could find another husband.

Naomi had not only lost her husband but both her married sons as well. At the time they were living in the land of the Moabites east of the Dead Sea. The Moabites were adversaries of the Israelites of Judah from where Naomi and her family had migrated because of famine. She decided to return to Judah but tried to persuade her widowed daughters-in-law, Ruth and Orpah to remain in Moab and hopefully find new husbands. Ruth refused to leave Naomi thereby acting in a selfless manner worthy of God.

The unnamed widow at Zarephath met Elijah as she was preparing the family’s last meal before they died in the famine. Elijah, instructed by the Lord asked her to give him some water and bread which she selflessly did having been reassured that God would provide for her and her family. God did just that by constantly replenishing the oil and flour from which bread was made.

Paul, in instructing Timothy at Ephesus lays down the Godly manner in which widows should be treated. Surely this resonates and is just as relevant with us today.