

# Heroes Need Heroes Too

Submitted by Dr. Anthony Brown

## 1 Kings 17:12 (NIV)

*“As surely as the LORD your God lives,” she replied, “I don’t have any bread--only a handful of flour in a jar and a little olive oil in a jug. I am gathering a few sticks to take home and make a meal for myself and my son, that we may eat it--and die.”*

On that day I was in a crisis situation. I was sitting in a doctor’s office in downtown Baltimore with my sister who, after weeks of declining health, seemed to be getting answers and desperately needed attention from a group of physicians. Then, miraculously, they were able to arrange a hospital bed for further attention and care. We simply needed to go around the corner to the main hospital to get her admitted.

Mobility, specifically walking, was a major challenge for my sister and when we got downstairs to the sidewalk, I opted not to get the car and decided to push my sister’s wheelchair three city blocks to the hospital admissions office. There are days when I think about that “sidewalk journey” and laugh, wondering what people thought as they watched me pushing a wheelchair (and my sister) erratically through the streets of downtown Baltimore. But in that moment, my sister needed an earthly hero.

You’ve heard the saying that heroes come in all different shapes and sizes and today I want to encourage YOU, THE HERO. The one who’s caring for the aging parent - navigating doctor appointments, dealing with all of the scenarios that come with being the caregiver for someone who is growing older. This pat on the back is for the heroes, the couple who’s working hard to raise the children, being faithful in the job and keeping the finances together. You’re a hero, young adult, as you work, go to school, resist life’s negative influences, and take seriously the challenge to become the world’s NEXT. Trying, pushing, helping, praying, leading, listening, supporting, teaching, caring, applauding, encouraging - YOU ARE A HERO.

The hero in our text this morning seems to be giving up. She had nothing to offer the prophet, and suggest her plan was to prepare a final meal for she and her son so that they could then be released to die. It’s a discouraging encounter from someone, we can safely assume, who had been a HERO for this son and others she had encountered. But now, the hero was in need of a hero.

One last meal and she and her son could go and die. But her story was redirected with an encounter with the prophet. Scripture doesn’t detail all this widow had endured, how hard she had tried to “keep her head above water”. She wasn’t done yet because heroes have to remember they’ve also got a hero. Elijah provides “hope filled” direction and GOD PROVIDED enough for the widow, her son, and the prophet. And, when tragedy seemingly strikes again, the Prophet Elijah breathes life into this son.

Heroes need heroes too. My sister needed one, this widow needed one and you; the family; a

work or friendship HERO, needs a reminder that YOU HAVE A HERO, TOO. Watch Him, The Lord, provide, protect, and breathe HOPE into your desperate situation. Be encouraged.