

## WHEN YOU'RE RUNNING OUT OF EVERYTHING

When You're Hoping for a Miracle  
Rick Warren

### 1 Kings 17:1-16

"Now Elijah, . . . told King Ahab, 'As surely as the LORD, the God of Israel, lives—the God I serve—there will be no dew or rain during the next few years until I give the word!'" 1 Kings 17:1 (NLT)

### KERITH: THE RAVINE OF OBSCURITY

"Then the word of the Lord came to Elijah: 'Leave here, turn eastward and hide in the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan. You will drink from the brook, and I have directed the ravens to supply you with food there.' So he did what the Lord had told him. He went to the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan, and stayed there. The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning and bread and meat in the evening, and he drank from the brook. Some time later the brook dried up because there had been no rain in the land.'" 1 Kings 17:2-7 (NIV)

### 3 REASONS GOD ALLOWS BROOKS TO DRY UP

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- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

### JOURNEY NORTH: THE ROAD OF INSECURITY

"Then God spoke to him: 'Get up and go to Zarephath in Sidon and live there. I've instructed a woman who lives there, a widow, to feed you.'" 1 Kings 17:8-9 (MSG)

### WHAT TO REMEMBER:

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- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

### ZAREPHATH: THE REFINERY OF SCARCITY

"When he came to the town gate, a widow was there gathering sticks. He called to her and asked, 'Would you bring me a little water in a jar so I may have a drink?' As she was going to get it, he called, 'And bring me, please, a piece of bread.' '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.' Elijah said to her, 'Don't be afraid. Go home and do as you have said. But first make a small loaf of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me, and then make something for yourself and your son. For this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: "The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the Lord sends rain on the land."' She went away and did as Elijah had told her. So there was food every day for Elijah and for the woman 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 Kings 17:10-16 (NIV)

### WHAT TO REMEMBER:

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- \_\_\_\_\_
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### LESSONS FOR RECESSIONS

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- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

"My God will supply all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus."  
Philippians 4:19 (BSB)

*Next Step*

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## WHEN YOU CAN'T SEE YOUR WAY CLEARLY

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*"The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness."*

Matthew 6:22-23 (NIV)

### Mark 8:17-29

#### AN EMBARRASSING MISUNDERSTANDING

*"Then [Jesus] left them, got back into the boat and crossed to the other side. The disciples had forgotten to bring bread, except for one loaf they had with them in the boat. 'Be careful,' Jesus warned them. 'Watch out for the yeast of the Pharisees and that of Herod.' They discussed this with one another and said, 'It is because we have no bread.' Aware of their discussion, Jesus asked them: 'Why are you talking about having no bread? Do you still not see or understand? Are your hearts hardened? Do you have eyes but fail to see, and ears but fail to hear? And don't you remember? When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many basketfuls of pieces did you pick up?' 'Twelve,' they replied. 'And when I broke the seven loaves for the four thousand, how many basketfuls of pieces did you pick up?' They answered, 'Seven.' He said to them, 'Do you still not understand?'"* Mark 8:13-21 (NIV)

EVERY MIRACLE HAS \_\_\_\_\_

BLINDNESS IS A METAPHOR \_\_\_\_\_

#### WHAT KEEPS ME FROM SEEING LIFE CLEARLY?

1. \_\_\_\_\_

*"Watch out for the yeast of the Pharisees."* Mark 8:15 (NIV)

2. \_\_\_\_\_

*"The disciples talked this over and said to each other, 'He must be saying this because we don't have any bread.'"* Mark 8:16 (CEV)

3. \_\_\_\_\_

*"Don't you remember?"* (the two miracles) Mark 8:18 (NIV)

*"Where there is no vision, the people perish."* Proverbs 29:18 (KJV)

*"I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you."* Ephesians 1:18 (NIV)

#### A PROGRESSIVE MIRACLE

*"They came to Bethsaida, and some people brought a blind man and begged Jesus to touch him. He took the blind man by the hand and led him outside the village."*

Mark 8:22-23 (NIV)

#### 3 CONDITIONS FOR A MIRACLE

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

*"When he had spit on the man's eyes and put his hands on him, Jesus asked, 'Do you see anything?' He looked up and said, 'I see people; they look like trees walking around.'"* Mark 8:23-24 (NIV)

*"Then Jesus placed his hands on the man's eyes a second time."*

Mark 8:25 (GNT)

*"Then his eyes were opened, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly. Jesus sent him home, saying, 'Don't even go into the village.'"*

Mark 8:25-26 (NIV)

#### 3 LESSONS ABOUT SEEING LIFE CLEARLY

1. MY SPIRITUAL VISION \_\_\_\_\_

2. THE TEST OF MY VISION IS \_\_\_\_\_

3. JESUS HEALS MY SIGHT THREE WAYS:

• \_\_\_\_\_

• \_\_\_\_\_

• \_\_\_\_\_

*"Teach me what I cannot see; if I have done wrong, I will not do so again."*

Job 34:32 (NIV)

#### A CLARIFYING QUESTION

*"Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, 'Who do people say I am' They replied, 'Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.' 'But what about you?' he asked. 'Who do you say I am?' Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah.'"* Mark 8:27-29 (NIV)

HOW I \_\_\_\_\_ DETERMINES HOW CLEARLY I SEE EVERYTHING ELSE



## WHEN YOU'VE COME UP EMPTY

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"One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, the people were crowding around him and listening to the word of God. He saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, 'Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.' Simon answered, 'Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything.'" Luke 5:1-5 (NIV)

### WHAT TO DO IN A DISCOURAGING SITUATION

1. "[Jesus] got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat."  
Luke 5:3 (NIV)

2. "When [Jesus] had finished speaking, he said to Simon, 'Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.' Simon answered, 'Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything.'" Luke 5:4-5 (NIV)

3. "Simon answered, 'Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets.'" Luke 5:5 (NIV)

**WHEN:** "Now . . . Launch out." Luke 5:4 (KJV)

**WHAT:** "Let down your nets" Luke 5:4 (NLT)

**WHERE:** "Into deep water." Luke 5:4 (NIV)

4. "The One who called you is completely dependable. If he said it, he'll do it!"  
1 Thessalonians 5:24 (MSG)

"When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink."  
Luke 5:6-7 (NIV)

### PETER'S REACTION

"When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, 'Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!' For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners." Luke 5:8-10 (NIV)

### THE REAL LESSON

"Do not be afraid," Jesus said to Simon. 'From now on you will catch men.' And when they had brought their boats ashore, they left everything and followed Him."  
Luke 5:10-11 (NIV)

### Next Steps

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## WHEN YOU FEEL YOU'RE SINKING

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*"Immediately Jesus made his disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd. After leaving them, he went up on a mountainside to pray. Later that night, the boat was in the middle of the lake, and he was alone on land. He saw the disciples straining at the oars, because the wind was against them. Shortly before dawn he went out to them, walking on the lake. He was about to pass by them, but when they saw him walking on the lake, they thought he was a ghost. They cried out, because they all saw him and were terrified. Immediately he spoke to them and said, 'Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid.' Then he climbed into the boat with them, and the wind died down. They were completely amazed, for they had not understood about the loaves; their hearts were hardened."*

Mark 6:45-52 (NIV)

### THAT SINKING FEELING

Matthew 14:22-33, Mark 6:45-52, John 6:15-21

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*"By now it was dark."* John 6:17 (NIV)
- ---

*"Jesus had not yet joined them."* John 6:17 (NIV)
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*"The boat was in the middle of the lake."* Mark 6:47 (NIV)  
*"The boat was a long way from the shore."* Matthew 14:24 (CEV)
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*"Tossed and battered by the waves."* Matthew 14:24 (AMP)  
*"The waters grew rough."* John 6:18 (NIV)  
*"The wind was against them."* Mark 6:48 (NIV)
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*"They were in serious trouble, rowing hard and struggling against the wind and waves."* Mark 6:48 (TLB)

## WHAT DOES JESUS DO WHEN I'M SINKING?

1. 

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Jesus had been on the mountain praying for his disciples (Matthew 14:23)  
  
*"I have prayed that you will not lose your faith! Help your brothers be stronger when you come back to me."* Luke 22:32 (NCV)  
  
*"Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us."* Romans 8:34 (NIV)
2. 

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*"He saw the disciples straining at the oars."* Mark 6:48 (NIV)  
  
*"God knows everything I do; he sees every step I take."* Job 31:4 (GNT)  
  
*"We have a chief priest who is able to sympathize with our weaknesses. He was tempted in every way that we are, but he didn't sin."* Hebrews 4:15 (GW)
3. 

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*"About the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea."*  
Mark 6:48 (ESV)  
  
*"I will not abandon you or leave you as orphans in the storm—I will come to you."*  
John 14:18 (TLB)
4. 

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*"When they saw him walking on the lake, they thought he was a ghost. They cried out, because they all saw him and were terrified. Immediately he spoke to them and said, 'Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid.'"* Mark 6:49-50 (NIV)

## WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I'M SINKING?

1. 

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*"[Jesus] spoke to them and said, 'Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid.'"*  
Mark 6:50 (NIV)
2. 

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*"Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, 'tell me to come to you on the water.' 'Come,' he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus."* Matthew 14:28-29 (NIV)
3. 

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*"But when he looked around at the high waves, he was terrified and began to sink. 'Save me, Lord!' he shouted."* Matthew 14:30 (TLB)

4.

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*"Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. 'You of little faith,' he said, 'why did you doubt?'"* Matthew 14:31 (NIV)

5.

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*"And when [Jesus and Peter] climbed into the boat, the wind died down. Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, 'Truly you are the Son of God.'"*  
Matthew 14:32-33 (NIV)

### *Next Steps*

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## WHEN A MARRIAGE HAS ENDED

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*"Two are better than one, . . . If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up. Two are better than one... If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up!" Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 (NIV)*

*"Friends love through all kinds of weather." Proverbs 17:17 (MSG)*

## HOW TO HELP YOUR FRIEND

1. "A despairing man should have the kindness of his friend, even if he forsakes the fear of the Almighty." Job 6:14 (BSB)

*"When Job's three friends . . . heard about all the troubles that had come upon him, they set out from their homes and met together by agreement to go and sympathize with him and comfort him." Job 2:11 (NIV)*

2. "When they saw him from a distance, . . . they began to weep aloud, and they tore their robes and sprinkled dust on their heads. Then they sat on the ground with him for seven days and seven nights. No one said a word to him, because they saw how great his suffering was." Job 2:12-13 (NIV)

3. "The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit." Psalm 34:18 (NIV)

*"Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need." Hebrews 4:16 (NIV)*

*"I cry out to the LORD; I plead for the LORD's mercy. I pour out my complaints before him and tell him all my troubles. When I am overwhelmed, you alone know the way I should turn." Psalm 142:1-3 (NLT)*

4. "You are only hurting yourself with your anger." Job 18:4 (GNT)

*"My guilt overwhelms me—it is a burden too heavy to bear. But I confess my sins; I am deeply sorry for what I have done." Psalm 38:4, 18 (NLT)*

*"Get rid of all bitterness, . . . forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." Ephesians 4:31-32 (NIV)*

5. David: "I fasted and wept while the child was alive, . . . But why should I fast when he is dead? Can I bring him back again?" 2 Samuel 12:22-23 (NIV)

6. "I would have despaired unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the LORD." Psalm 27:13 (NASB95)

*"Faith comes from hearing the message, . . . heard through the word about Christ." Romans 10:17 (NIV)*

*"I am completely discouraged. . . . Revive me by your Word." Psalm 119:25 (TLB)*

7. "God who began the good work within you will keep right on helping you grow in his grace until his task within you is finally finished." Philippians 1:6 (TLB)

*"Put your heart right, . . . Reach out to God. . . . Then face the world again, firm and courageous. Then all your troubles will fade from your memory." Job 11:13, 15-16 (GNT)*

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## WHEN YOU'RE DROWING IN DEBT

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*"Woe to him who heaps up what is not his own—for how long?—and loads himself with pledges!" Will not your debtors suddenly arise, and those awake who will make you tremble? Then you will be spoil for them." Habakkuk 2:6-7 (ESV)*

### DANGER SIGNS

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
*"Don't withhold repayment of your debts. Don't say 'some other time,' if you can pay now." Proverbs 3:27-28 (TLB)*
  - Shows a lack of contentment (Luke 3:14)
  - Presumes on the future (Proverbs 27:1)
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
*"Let no debt remain outstanding." Romans 13:8 (NIV)*
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
*"Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me. But you ask, 'How are we robbing you?' In tithes and offerings." Malachi 3:8 (NIV)*  
*"The wise man saves for the future, but the foolish man spends whatever he gets." Proverbs 21:20 (TLB)*
4. \_\_\_\_\_  
*"So give back to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's." Matthew 22:21 (NIV)*
5. \_\_\_\_\_  
*"Indulging in luxuries, wine, and food will never make you wealthy." Proverbs 21:17 (GNT)*
6. \_\_\_\_\_  
*"Steady plodding brings prosperity; hasty speculation brings poverty." Proverbs 21:5 (TLB)*  
*"Dreaming instead of doing is foolishness." Ecclesiastes 5:7 (TLB)*

### STEPS TO FREEDOM

1. \_\_\_\_\_ **TO BECOMING DEBT FREE NOW!**  
*"The wicked borrow and do not repay." Psalm 37:21 (NIV)*
2. **START PAYING** \_\_\_\_\_ **(10/10/80)**  
 Tithing & Saving: Malachi 3:8-11, Proverbs 3:9-10, 1 Corinthians 16:1-2, Proverbs 21:5, 20  
*"The purpose of tithing is to teach you always to put God first in your lives." Deuteronomy 14:23 (TLB)*
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
*"By wisdom a house is built, and through understanding it is established." Proverbs 24:3 (NIV)*
4. \_\_\_\_\_  
*"Get rid of every idol." Ezekiel 20:7 (TLB)*
5. **SET UP** \_\_\_\_\_  
*"Good planning and hard work lead to prosperity." Proverbs 21:5 (NLT)*  
*"Get advice if you want your plans to work." Proverbs 20:18 (NCV)*
6. **DECIDE TO** \_\_\_\_\_  
*"What is impossible with man is possible with God." Luke 18:27 (NIV)*
7. \_\_\_\_\_  
*"Be content with what you have." Hebrews 13:5 (NIV)*
8. **SHARE MY PLAN WITH** \_\_\_\_\_  
*"When you please the LORD, you can make your enemies into friends." Proverbs 16:7 (GNT)*
9. \_\_\_\_\_  
*"Let us not get tired of doing what is right, for after a while we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't get discouraged and give up." Galatians 6:9 (TLB)*





## WHEN A FRIEND IS DYING

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*"No one can live forever; all will die. No one can escape the power of the grave."*  
Psalm 89:48 (NLT)

### HOW SPIRITUALLY UNPREPARED PEOPLE REACT

- \_\_\_\_\_ **"This isn't happening to me!"**  
*"I am frightened inside; the terror of death has attacked me."* Psalm 55:4 (NCV)
- \_\_\_\_\_ **"Why is this happening to me?"**  
*"I became very angry inside, and as I thought about it, my anger burned. So I spoke: 'Lord, tell me when the end will come and how long I will live.'"*  
Psalm 39:3-4 (NCV)
- \_\_\_\_\_ **"I promise to . . . if you'll let me live."**  
*"You can never pay God enough to stay alive forever and be safe from death."*  
Psalm 49:8-9 (CEV)
- \_\_\_\_\_ **"I just don't care anymore."**  
*"I'm at the end of my rope, my life in ruins. I'm fading away to nothing, passing away."* Psalm 109:22-23 (MSG)
- \_\_\_\_\_ **"I'm ready for whatever happens."**  
*"But I am trusting you, O LORD, saying, 'You are my God!' My future is in your hands."* Psalm 31:14-15 (NLT)  
  
*"My loved ones and friends stay away, fearing my disease. Even my own family stands at a distance."* Psalm 38:11 (NLT)

### HOW TO COMFORT SOMEONE WHO IS DYING

C \_\_\_\_\_

O \_\_\_\_\_

M \_\_\_\_\_

F \_\_\_\_\_

O \_\_\_\_\_

R \_\_\_\_\_

T \_\_\_\_\_

*"For only as a human being could he die, and only by dying could he break the power of the devil, who had the power of death. Only in this way could he set free all who have lived their lives as slaves to the fear of dying."* Hebrews 2:14-15 (NLT)

*"So we do not look at what we can see right now, the troubles all around us, but we look forward to the joys in heaven which we have not yet seen. The troubles will soon be over, but the joys to come will last forever."* 2 Corinthians 4:18 (NLT)

*"Death laid a trap in my path. But in my distress I cried out to the LORD."*  
Psalm 18:5-6 (NLT)

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