



**Food for Life Campaign
Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance
Sermon Competition 2010-2011
www.e-alliance.ch**

Preparing to meet the king for judgment*

Texts: 1Kings 17:12-16; and Matt. 25:31-46

Song: Amazing grace! How sweet the sound

- ✓ The word of God tells us that the poor widow was willing to share the little food in her possession with Elijah, the man of God, and they all lived by faith.
- ✓ The word of God is calling us today to share the little food that we have with the needy people of God, in order to inherit eternal life.

Israel was the chosen people of God who were expected by law to worship and obey Jehovah God alone. Under the reign of Ahab, they entertained worship of Baal gods, and forgot about God the creator, just as people of God today are tempted to worship wealth under capitalism. But the sovereign God was not happy with Israelites, and He sent His prophet Elijah to proclaim that unless they repented, He would punish them. Just as we had a global economic crisis recently, Israel suffered seven years of severe drought because of their sinful disobedience to God. We had an economic depression of about two years, but can you imagine a severe drought for seven years without a drop of rain water? Israelites suffered it because they disobeyed God.

But the word of God tells us that the poor widow at Zarephath shared her small piece of the last bread with Elijah, even when she did not have any tangible prove that God would sustain her family through the drought. She shared her little bread by faith, and verses 15-16 say: (Read: “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”).

Today, experts tell us that there is enough food to feed everybody in the world. But because capitalism tells us that greedy accumulation of wealth is the ideal success, even Christians are tempted to value wealth accumulation rather than saving a starving life by as little as half dollar meal per day. People of God would rather see their brethren starving to death like these (Project an image of a hungry person) ** than share the little that they have like the widow did.

I identify with these victims of hunger because my father died when I was seven years old, and he left us under our mother who raised us on a small piece of land on the periphery of the arid northern Kenya. We suffered frequent droughts and famine, but I thank God because unlike these victims (Point to the projected image), people of God shared their food with me, and enabled me to have education, and that’s why I am able to speak to you.

From this experience, I tell you that with half-a-dollar meal per day, you can touch the souls of these victims of starvation 50 times deeper than any priest or minister of God’s word can do

through a 12 hour sermon per day, on the love of God revealed to us by sending His only begotten son to die for us on the Cross so that we may not perish but have eternal life, as found in John 3:16.

So, today God is commissioning all of us to be ministers of His gospel at different capacities, like to:

1. Share our food with the hungry, like the widow at Zarephath,
2. Serve with the needy by distributing the donated food,
3. Urge other people to share their food with the starving victims of hunger.

At this point, you may be wondering; “is this biblical?” But in Matt. 25:31-46, our Lord, the king of Kings Jesus Christ opened one widow for us to look through and see judgment table in the heavenly kingdom. As we read these verses consider, if you faced Christ today in His kingdom, would you qualify to enter heaven, or you would be condemned to eternal death? (Read Matt. 25:31-46).

Based on this word of God, are we prepared to meet our king for the heavenly judgment?

Brothers and sisters, God is calling us to share what we have with his needy people. Like in the case of the widow at Zarephath, we do not have to be millionaires in order to give, but God is calling us to save the starving victims of hunger with the little that He has blessed us with.

As we are going to pray, speak to God our creator and ask Him what He wants you to share with the starving people in Northern Kenya, and when we finish, write it down on the piece of paper in your envelope, and hand over the envelop at the alter after the prayers.***

May be you are asking; “As a good steward, how can I give without having budgeted for it?” The Lord is a patient God who is always generous with time. You may spread your donation for a year, and God will bless us.

- ✓ As we pray, let us hold up our envelopes like this (demonstrate).
- ✓ Pray.
- ✓ Let us write down what the Lord has told us to share with the victims of hunger in Northern Kenya. May God continue to bless us as we share with His needy people, Amen.

Sermon notes

*** It may help to announce the nature of the sermon at least one month before it is delivered.**

**** The image of hunger to be projected during the sermon can be selected through consultations with the EAA campaign team, or by the preacher.**

***** Have envelopes distributed to the congregation at the beginning of the worship service.**

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