Sermon Outline

Standing for God (3) Watch and Pray
1 Kings 17:17-24

I. Introduction
   A. Recap: Trusting and obeying God may require us to get out of our comfort zone of
      security and service and to be supplied from a cruse of little oil and a barrel of a
      handful of flour.
   B. When life seems smooth-sailing and we are surfing on a crest of the wave, life may
      suddenly fall apart
   C. Our text informs us of such a life that suddenly falls apart.
   D. We are to watch and pray

II. Before God seems to fail: Watch aka to be spiritually alert v 17-18
   Before the world collapse around us, we are to watch or be spiritually alert
   A. What it is not:
      • Pessimism
      • Optimism
      • Stoicism
   B. What it is:
      • Knowing and living before God’s sovereignty and omnipotence
      • Knowing and living before God who work all things together for good, for those
        who are called according to his purpose
      • Knowing and living before God who is our eternal hope and joy

III. When God seems to fail: Pray v 19-22
    When the world collapse around us, we can pray
    A. Ordinary means God often uses to accomplish his purpose
    B. Fervent and in Faith
    C. Pleading upon the promises of God
    D. Reason with God aka wrestling in prayer

IV. Our God never fails v 23-24
   • “These may seem to be well-worn paths, and you may find yourself desiring some new
     teaching that makes things easier. But there is a reason paths are well-worn. Lots of
     feet have trodden them! And the reason so many feet have trodden these paths is that
     they lead to peace.” Roger Ellsworth
   • Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whosoever believes in me though
     he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believe in me shall never die. Do
     you believe this” John 11.25-26