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WORKLIFE COACHING



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DRIED UP AT WORK

Some time later the brook dried up because there had been no rain in the land. The word of the Lord came to Elijah, "Go at once to Zarephath of Sidon, and stay there. I have commanded a widow in that place to supply you with food." So he went. (1 Kings 17: 7-10)

Elijah was resting, fed and watered, where the Lord wanted him to be. But the brook dried up. I wonder how he responded. Did he feel let down because God had told him the brook would provide his water supply? Did he expect God to protect him from the drought, because he had been faithful even though no one else in Israel had? Why was God telling him to go to a foreign land, rather than back to Israel as a prophet? Did this solitary man shrink from having to live in someone else's house - dependent, moreover, on a Gentile woman?

We can't tell how long it took Elijah to be sure of God's plan. Were there days of doubt while he wondered whether the water would flow again?

Whether it's inspiration, or a client account, most of us experience times when we can only say, 'It's dried up!' All is going well; the work we are doing is what we are good at; we seem to be in the right place - how do we respond when some essential ingredient simply dries up? Disappointed, resentful, doubting whether we can ever know what God really wants from us?

Sometimes it's very clear what we should do, but often it isn't. We need to take time to think, to be honest, to pray, to consult with those who know the situation and know us well. And then we move on in faith, trusting the Lord to work out his purposes through our decisions, and sometimes in spite of them.

A WORK PRAYER

Lord, help me to take time when time is needed - to think, to be honest, to pray, to consult with those who know situations and know me. May my work life be increasingly under Your influence and increasingly reflective of Your presence in my life. Amen.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Is your work situation one in which it is usually clear what you should do, or is it a situation where clarity may be difficult to find?
2. How do you respond to these work situations of elusive clarity: a) personally, b) in relationship to God?
3. Even in stable work, something may dry up. Is it all right to have doubts in such circumstances? Is God present in the dry times?

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