

# Coach House Church BEACONS

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## 30TH MARCH 2020

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### SELF ISOLATED

From time to time things happen in our lives that we weren't necessarily expecting. Mostly these tend to be individual events affecting just one person or family. Unpleasant as these events are, there is often the consolation that friends and family come together to help, both in practical ways and, as Christians, in prayer. Lately though we have seen an event of such magnitude that it has affected almost every household in the world. We have had to learn new words, phrases and concepts. Corona-virus was not something many people knew about until a few weeks ago; "unprecedented", "self-isolation" and "social distancing" are all new concepts to get our heads round. Our adversary in this case is so small that we can't even see it.

When times like this occur there is only one place to look for answers and that is the Bible. As Christians we know that no problem is truly new, all types of problem have, at some time, been faced by one or more Bible character, and from the account of what happened we can draw inspiration and understanding of our current problem.

One such Bible character who had to self-isolate was the prophet Elijah. You can find this story in the First book of Kings, Chapter 17.

Elijah was a man who loved God very much, and wanted to serve him any way he could. He was very concerned that the King, Ahab, wasn't ruling as he should have been, so he went to Ahab, and advised him that there would be no rain for 3 years. This is what the Bible says "Elijah, who was from Tishbe, 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" Then the Lord said to Elijah, "Go to the east and hide by the Kerith Brook, near where it enters the River Jordan. Drink from the Brook and eat what the Ravens bring you, for I have commanded them to bring you food"

Elijah was, in effect, self-isolating. He was doing so to preserve his life from his adversary, King Ahab, who wanted to kill him. Most of us didn't choose to be self-isolated, we did it because a higher authority told us to do so. In the same way, I'm sure Elijah, given a choice, wouldn't have chosen to self-isolate, but as it was God who told him to do so, he did as he had been told. Now for sure he would have had the same worries that we have, especially how to get food and drink. Elijah didn't have the luxury of a smart phone, whatsapp or Tesco deliveries; there was no-one

available to help him out, but God had already thought of that. More importantly, Elijah trusted God implicitly. We might like to think that we live in a much more complicated world, but the same principle applies - God has already thought about our needs. All that remains is for us to trust God implicitly. In these dark times we only need to turn to Jesus. This is what Jesus said

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**“Don't be concerned about what to eat and what to drink. Don't worry about these things. These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers all over the world but your father already knows what you need. Seek the Kingdom of God above all else and He will give you everything you need” (Luke 12:29-31)**

Lets Pray – Lord, forgive me when I worry about my needs. Will you meet my needs in your way not mine. Amen.



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