

RAVEN MOMENTS

with BARRON LONGSTRETH



Session 1: What Are They?

1 Kings 17:2-6

Raven moments are defined as God-directed care in challenging seasons. This care often comes in unique ways, such as being nourished from undesired processes. Ravens may not have been Elijah's choice for being sustained, but they were God's provisional method during the required season. The Bible highlights these types of moments and shares wisdom and examples of how to submit to the crumbs that fall from the Master's table. Raven Moments are often misunderstood, but these times are never without value.

1. This first session explores the idea of Kingdom currency—how Stephen was spent in order for the Lord to purchase Paul. Have you ever been spent or purchased by God
2. We will all experience raven moments. What are some ways that we can prepare now for moments like these?
3. Raven Moments are often moments of confusion and isolation; however, God never stopped sending the birds. Can you give examples of how God continually cares for you in the midst of your raven moments?

Raven moments are part of God's divine plan. These seasons are not easy, but God sees them as necessary. Like Elijah and Stephen, we are all currency in the hand of the sovereign God. These points in our life are challenging; however, when we remain committed to God, He uses the season for a larger purpose.

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Session 2: Hidden

Key Scriptures:

I Kings 17:2-6

Opening Remarks:

In this lesson, we look into the diverse stages of the transformation of the caterpillar. We see the value of each development cycle and how these phases are foundational for the preceding one. Just as the caterpillar surrenders to every phase of the transformation process, our job is to trust God's calling into these developmental seasons and His provision for us through these places. Raven moments can be times of isolation and question, but they are never void of the next divine meal.

Watch the Session 2 Video

Discussion Questions:

1. How do you remain faithful even if Jesus chooses to remain silent?
2. What are some valuable lessons you can learn from hidden times?
3. Share a biblical example or a personal story of successful transformation despite experiencing hidden moments?

Closing Remarks:

As was mentioned in the video, somewhere around eight hundred meals were brought to Elijah's table; however, during that duration, God chose not to speak. It may feel that being hidden *by* God is being hidden *from* God, but that is never the truth. The next raven will keep arriving until the next Word from God does. It is in these times that we must commit ourselves to the process of transformation and realize that being in a cocoon is always a part of becoming a butterfly.

NOTES:

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Session 3: Faithfulness

Key Scriptures:

Genesis 45:4-8

Opening Remarks:

Abraham's example of faithfulness, no matter what God required, would serve as the assurance to his son that they would both come down off that mountain. Joseph's faithfulness to the dream, despite those hidden years, eventually brought his family into a place of plenty. Our efforts of walking by faith and not by sight will take us to the finish line of this race. There is no substitute for faithfulness. Raven moments are still Kingdom moments, and Kingdom moments require faithfulness.

Watch the Session 3 Video

Discussion Questions:

1. How would you define faithfulness?
2. Abraham was required to be faithful in the small daily steps and the enormous calling to sacrifice his son. How have you experienced both large and small measures of faithfulness?
3. In what areas of your life can you see the need to be more faithful?

Closing Remarks:

Make no mistake about it: fulfilling our Kingdom purpose requires faithful commitment. Joseph was committed to every position he was placed into, and the result was the highest level of leadership possible. To Joseph, there was no other option than to remain faithful in the raven moments. Faithfulness can be challenging, and the call can be demanding; nevertheless, we follow our Savior in praying, “Not my will, but thine, be done.”

NOTES:

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Session 4: Remember

I Kings 17:2-6

Raven moments are just that: moments. These moments are not designed to hold you hostage for the remainder of your journey; they are intended to grow us spiritually and help connect us to Kingdom purpose. The woman with the issue of blood was unwilling to let the opportunity of Jesus' passing through the city pass her by. The words of Jesus following the miracle were simply, "Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole" (Mark 5:34). In that interaction she was challenged to remember what happens when faith perseveres.

1. Some have said that God often does not erase the pain; He chooses to preserve the tears. What does that mean to you?
2. How does remembering enhance our faithfulness?
3. Describe how you are going to use remembering God's faithfulness to face the challenge of a raven moment.

The brook will eventually dry up, and the ravens will one day change their course. It is up to us to remember that we were called *to* that place and *from* that place by the same King within the same Kingdom. Raven moments have Kingdom purpose. He is the author and finisher of our faith, and His pen will never write us into a place where His power and love will not sustain us.

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