

IT LOOKS LIKE RAIN



Message: The power of prayer
Scripture: James 5:16b (NIV)
Prop: An umbrella

I'll bet you're wondering why in the world I have my umbrella, right? Well, there's a very good reason for it. I'll tell you what it is later, but first I want to tell you a story from the Bible about a man named Elijah.

Elijah lived many, many years ago, and the people who lived near him didn't worship the Lord. They worshipped a false god named Baal. Now, these people believed that Baal controlled the rain, but Elijah knew that only God controls the rain. So he decided to prove it to them.

Elijah said to the people, "I'm going to pray that God will not let it rain." And God didn't let it rain for 3 ½ years, which caused quite a drought. Nothing could grow without rain! After 3 ½ years Elijah prayed that God let it rain again – and it rained and everything began to grow again.

So Elijah proved to the people that God, not Baal, controls the rain.

The book of James tells us something about Elijah. It says, "The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective." (NIV) Elijah was a righteous man and his prayer was powerful and effective. And you know what? Your prayers are powerful, too, because they go straight from your lips to God's ears. Whatever you pray, God hears. That's pretty powerful!

Now let me tell you why I have my umbrella: you see, I was worried that there might be a righteous person here who would pray that it rain on me! But you don't think anyone here would do that, do you? No? Then I guess I can put it away.

Let's pray: Father God, we thank you that our prayers are powerful because they go right from our lips to your ears. Please help us to remember to pray often. Thank you for listening. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.