

The Unending Supply of Oil – Aug. 24, 2022

This is the story of a widow. Left w/debt, 2 sons, & afraid she'll lose them:

2 Kings 4:1 – The wife of a man from the company of the prophets cried out to Elisha, “Your servant my husband is dead, and you know that he revered the Lord. But now his creditor is coming to take my two boys as his slaves.”

1 – No Name - This woman is not named, nor is her husband, kids.

- So often we want to be known; Praise, popularity, power, position.
 - Let God be known. His Name Glorified.
 - Be a Nobody, telling Everybody, about the Somebody who changed...
- We aren't unknown to God.
 - “The Lord knows those who are his” – **2 Tim 2:19**
 - “He counts the number of the stars; He calls them all by name.” – **Psalm 147:4**.
He knows when a sparrow falls; we're more valuable!

2 - Serving God doesn't mean we won't have problems.

- She could lose her children.... Be totally alone.
- Slavery to pay a debt was real. (Lev. 25) Slavery up to 6 yrs.
 - Don't fall for Enemy's lies... God still loves you.
 - **John 16:33** – “In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

2 Kings 4:2 - Elisha replied to her, “How can I help you? Tell me, what do you have in your house?” “Your servant has nothing there at all,” she said, “except a small jar of olive oil.”

3 – What do you want God to do for you?

- We have not b/c we ask not. **James 4:2**
- **God knows before we ask-** but faith & dependence shown in asking.
- Seek out Godly wisdom. Don't hide your problems. Suffer in silence!
 - If she hadn't asked for help, she'd have missed a miracle.
 - Miracles make impressions; smooth sailing is forgotten.

4 - God has already given us what we need. It was ready.

- We minimize what we have. It's “small.” Not enough. Not pretty.
- When we give it to God, it's magnified.
 - David had 5 small stones ... killed a giant.
 - “only” 5 loaves of bread, 2 small fish... fed 5,000.
 - Think positively - what you have in God's hands is enough.

2 Kings 4:3-7 - 3 Elisha said, "Go around and ask all your neighbors for empty jars. Don't ask for just a few. 4 Then go inside and shut the door behind you and your sons. Pour oil into all the jars, and as each is filled, put it to one side."

5 She left him and shut the door behind her and her sons. They brought the jars to her and she kept pouring. 6 When all the jars were full, she said to her son, "Bring me another one." But he replied, "There is not a jar left." Then the oil stopped flowing. 7 She went & told the man of God, & he said, "Go, sell the oil & pay your debts. You & your sons can live on what is left."

5 – Ask – again – for Left-overs.

- 2 time this widow asks for help. Pride keeps us from asking.
 - We Know this: there is **joy in the giving**. Doing for others.
 - Don't deprive people of that opportunity.
- 2nd Use. **What other people discard, God uses.**
 - *"The stone the builders rejected became the cornerstone."*
 - **Leftovers provide life support.** She'll live on what's left over.
 - Leftovers were the miracle for the disciples - 12 basketfuls
 - Feeling leftover? Left behind. You're valuable to God.

6 -- Shut the Door

- Building Faith happens in private. Sharing faith happens in public.
 - God speaks to our hearts; still small voice.
 - Shut your door, Eliminate distractions. Negativity.

7 – Oil that Never Ran Dry

- Oil stopped flowing b/c no more jars. Widow's faith limited God's power
 - **The limit was not in the supply of oil, but the lack of empty vessels.**
 - God "is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us" – **Eph. 3:20**
 - **God meets our needs**, but not our greed. **Ex:** His hand bigger
- God uses what we offer & **multiplies** it – talents, finances, phys abilities
 - Investigate... does what you have seem small? Big impact.
 - Leftovers? Unusable? God's untapped treasure.
- Oil still flowed in their **hearts long after** the jars were filled.
 - In difficult times, God's goodness can fill us... the emptiness.
 - This story shows: God's love never ends. Grace. Mercy. Comfort
 - God is a well that never runs dry.

Stay positive. Test negative. "The Well" – J.J. Heller