

5 Steps to your Miracle

2 Kings 4:1-7

1. Declare what you want, not what you have.

1One day the widow of a member of the group of prophets came to Elisha and cried out, “My husband who served you is dead, and you know how he feared the LORD. But now a creditor has come, threatening to take my two sons as slaves.”

- She focused on her inabilities, lack of money, lack of a husband to provide, & the unfair situation she didn’t even create.
- Take every thought captive. Examine your thoughts. Do they obey Christ?
 - 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 - We are human, but we don’t wage war as humans do. We use God’s mighty weapons, not worldly weapons, to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and to destroy false arguments. We destroy every proud obstacle that keeps people from knowing God. We capture their rebellious thoughts and teach them to obey Christ.
- If thoughts cause worry, they don’t obey Christ and they are not allowing you to be humble before God. Don’t be surprised that you are suffering even when you are following Christ.
- She wondered how she could be in this kind of trouble when her family was serving God.
 - 1 Peter 5:6-8 - So **humble yourselves** under the mighty power of God, and at the right time he will lift you up in honor. **Give all your worries and cares to God**, for he cares about you. Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith. Remember that **your family of believers all over the world is going through the same kind of suffering you are**.
- Find scriptures that declare what God says about your situation.
 - “God you said,”... {declare scripture}, “Therefore, I am and I will {declare scripture}, {Insert your name} you are and you will.
 - Example: “The Lord directs the steps of the godly. Therefore, I am directed by the Lord and I will be continually on the right path. I’m where I’m meant to be. {your name}, you are on the right path. You are right where you are meant to be.

2. Examine what you have available.

2“What can I do to help you?” Elisha asked. “Tell me, what do you have in the house?” “Nothing at all, except a flask of olive oil,” she replied.

- Acknowledge God through thankfulness. This releases indescribable peace even when it doesn’t make sense to be in peace.
- Look around you to examine how to be thankful to God.
 - Philippians 4:8 - Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.
- Invite God into your situation through thankfulness.
 - Psalm 100:4 - Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise. Give thanks to him and praise his name.
- Exodus 4:2-5 - Then the LORD asked him, “**What is that in your hand?**” “A shepherd’s staff,” Moses replied.

3. Become an empty vessel.

3And Elisha said, “**Borrow as many empty jars** as you can from your friends and neighbors. ...”

- What may be trash or unused property can still be used by God for you.
 - Do you often say “I only have” ... 5 minutes?
 - Do you hear God replying, “Can I have it?”
 - Luke 9:13-17 - “But **we have only** five loaves of bread and two fish,” they answered.
 - 1 Kings 17:12 - But she said, “I swear by the LORD your God that I don’t have a single piece of bread in the house. And **I have only** a handful of flour left in the jar and a little cooking oil in the bottom of the jug. I was just gathering a few sticks to cook this last meal, and then my son and I will die.”
- The vessels may represent our capacity to receive from God.
 - The more vessels she had, the more she was going to receive.
 - God blesses you to the capacity that you make yourself available.
 - Are any areas of your life closed off to God?
- Are you quick to say you don’t have time or energy (capacity) for Him (with prayer, Bible reading, worship, or community)?
- Are you too full of other things (things of this world) to have capacity for the Holy Spirit to fill you?
- How do we choose God every day? How do we become empty vessels that have capacity for God?
 - Matthew 16:24-27 & Luke 9:23-27 - Then he said to the crowd, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross daily, and follow me. If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it. And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but are yourself lost or destroyed?
 - We must give up anything that replaces Jesus as “savior” or “lord.”
 - What are you dependent on that isn’t Jesus/Holy Spirit/God? Examples: addictions, opinions of others, fear, unforgiveness, sin of all kinds...
 - God is jealous when someone gives to another something that rightly belongs to Him.
 - Exodus 34:14 - You must worship no other gods, for the LORD, whose very name is Jealous, is a God who is jealous about his relationship with you.
- Look to your neighbors and friends. God provides through the body of Christ.
 - They may not have the “money” you need, but they may have access to something else.
 - Friends who love and care for you will want to help with your needs.
 - Neighbors may not want to give you their best, but they will give what they aren’t using any more.
- Pray. Ask God for next steps in faith. Pray believing He will show you the next steps even if they don’t make sense.

4. Shut the door behind you.

4Then go into your house with your sons and **shut the door behind you**. Pour olive oil from your flask into the jars, setting each one aside when it is filled.”

- Matthew 9:25 - After **the crowd was put outside**, however, Jesus went in and took the girl by the hand, and she stood up!
- Don’t allow your faith to be stolen from people who haven’t heard from God.
- Surround yourself with people who fan the flames of your passion for the Kingdom of God.

- 1 Thessalonians 5:11 - So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing.

5. Obey.

5So she did as she was told. Her sons kept bringing jars to her, and she filled one after another. **6**Soon every container was full to the brim!

- Obedience is an act of love.
 - John 14:15 - If you love me, obey my commandments
- Obedience is an act of faith.
 - Faith activates miracles.
 - Matthew 17:20 - “You don’t have enough faith,” Jesus told them. “I tell you the truth, if you had faith even as small as a mustard seed, you could say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it would move. Nothing would be impossible.
- Obey = listen to the voice of God
 - Jeremiah 7:23 - This is what I told them: ‘Obey me, and I will be your God, and you will be my people. Do everything as I say, and all will be well!’