Elizabeth’s kids were driving her crazy so she went to her bedroom closet, closed the door, and let out a blood-curdling scream.  The strategy seemed to relieve her stress so she relaxed and opened the door.  To her chagrin, she was greeted by three terrified kids and one shouted, “Mommy, I ***told*** you there was a monster in there!” (*Reader’s Digest, April 2005, p.48D)*

***Our Mothers taught us ‘stuff’ - -***

My mother taught me RELIGION: When I spilled grape juice on the carpet, she instructed, "You better pray the stain will come out of the carpet."

My mother taught me LOGIC: From her decisive words, "Because I said so, that's why."

My mother taught me about time travel: “I’ll knock you into next week”

My mother taught me FORESIGHT: "Make sure you wear clean underwear, in case you're in an accident."

My mother taught me IRONY: "Keep laughing, and I'll give you something to cry about."

My mother taught me about STAMINA: "You'll sit there 'til all that spinach is finished."

My mother taught me about WEATHER: "It looks as if a tornado swept through your room."

My mother taught me THE CIRCLE OF LIFE: "I brought you into this world, and I can take you out."

My mother taught me about BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION: "Stop acting like your father!"

My mother taught me about ENVY: "There are millions of less fortunate children in this world who don't have a wonderful Mom like you do!" (sermoncentral.com)

Anne Morrow Lindberg (1906-2001) was married to the fame aviator Charles, was a pilot herself, had six children, and wrote a best-selling book, *Gift From The Sea.*  In this reflection on life, she wrote, “The life I have chosen as wife and mother entrains a whole caravan of complications.”  She then went on to explain the long list of tasks that those two roles required.  Motherhood is indeed “a whole caravan of complications.” (*Gift From The Sea, 1955, p.25)*

The mother in our text today understood this very well. We don’t know her history, but it is obvious that she had faced “a whole caravan of complications.” She is a widow in a pagan nation. Apparently the Sidonians did not have social commandments, like the Israelites. Looks like she had no family to fall back on. She did not have a real friend who would stand by her through it all. She has been run over by that caravan of complications. Now, as we find her, she is hopeless. She is giving up the fight.

As we unfold this intriguing drama, we will use five phrases to guide our thinking : The Direction for the Prophet, The Dilemma of the Widow, The Declaration from the Prophet, The Decision of the Widow and the Demonstration of the Word. Let’s dive in!

**I. The Direction for the Prophet (8-10)**

 A. Communication

This was a wadi—a wet weather creek. The LORD did not speak to Elijah until the creek ran dry. THEN the LORD spoke to him. He will not leave us without His word!

 B. Location

The Lord sends his prophet into the HEART of Baal country. Baal was the storm god, and the Lord had His prophet to declare that there would be a drought. They would see **Who** controls the weather.

 The Lord is God EVERYWHERE, even in Baal country.

Have you read in 1 Samuel about what happened when the Philistines put the ark of the covenant in the temple of their God Dagon? (see 1 Samuel 5ff)

 This is about **a 100-mile journey** from Kerith to Zarephath. It is quite a hike.

NOTE : The Lord knew ***WHO*** this widow was and He knew ***WHERE*** she was. He ***HAD*** to know ***HOW*** she was!

 C. Duration

 D. Expectation

 E. Perambulation

 Elijah “*got up and went*” (10)

**II. The Dilemma of the Widow (10b-12)**

 A. Sex

 B. situation

 C. Son

 D. Supply

 E. Spirit

A teacher asked a boy this question… "Suppose your mother baked a pie and there were seven of you—your parents and five children. What part of the pie would you get?" "A sixth," replied the boy.

"I'm afraid you don't know your fractions," said the teacher. "Remember, there are seven of you." "Yes, teacher," said the boy, "but you don't know my mother. Mother would say she didn't want any pie.” (sermoncentral.com)

**III. The Declaration from the Prophet (13-14)**

 A. Invites himself

 B. Includes food

 C. Intention of the widow

She has run out of hope. The stream of her hopefulness had dried up, just like Elijah’s wadi.

 D. Encouragement from the prophet

 “*Don’t be afraid*” (13) Some of THE BEST news in the Bible!

 E. Impossible possibility

 “*This is what the LORD says* …” (14)

The LORD challenges her to GIVE her ***ALL***. In Luke 21.1-4 we read about Jesus Himself taking note of a poor widow ***putting in her all in the offering***. He knew that she had put in all she had to live on. We still talk about her today!

 Our widow need help. She needed hope. She needed to hear and head the word of God!

* She needed encouragement;
* She needed confirmation;

She had ALREADY been “*commanded*” (see v9). She HAD the word of God; Elijah confirmed it.

* She needed ***HOPE***.

 Sometimes SOMEBODY has to **tell** Somone what God has said.

**IV. The Decision of the Widow (15A)**

 A. Widow *proceeded to do*

 She **OBEYED** the word of God.

 The widow went from FEAR to ***FAITH*** - from *Hope-less* to ***Hope-full***.

 She went from marginal to **miracle**.

 B. Lord provided

 “*The flour jar did not become empty and the oil jug did not run dry*” (16)

 “*The woman, Elijah and her household ate for many days*” (15)

M. Henry pointed out that the oil multiplied in ***SPENDING***, not in HOARDING.

Prov 11.24 talks about a person who *gives freely, yet gains more*.

* It is not enough to **HAVE** the word of God - The LORD had commanded her (9)
* It is Not enough to **HEAR** the word of God - The prophet had told her (13-14)
* We have to **HEED** the word of God - “*she proceeded to do*…” (15)

**V.  THE DEMONSTRATION OF THE WORD**

 A. According to the word of the Lord

 God’s plan to **PRESERVE** His prophet was His plan to **PROVIDE** for the widow.

 B. Announced by the prophet of the Lord

 Jesus Himself took notice of this little lady. He made her an example (See Luk 4.25-6).

There was a teenager who didn't want to be seen in public with her mother, because her mother's arms were terribly disfigured.

One day when her mother took her shopping and reached out her hand, a clerk looked horrified. Later, crying, the girl told her how embarrassed she was. Understandably hurt, the mother waited an hour before going to her daughter's room to tell her, for the first time, what happened.

When you were a baby, I woke up to a burning house. Your room was an inferno. Flames were everywhere. I could have gotten out the front door, but I decided I'd rather die with you than leave you to die alone. I ran through the fire and wrapped my arms around you. Then I went back through the flames, my arms on fire. When I got outside on the lawn, the pain was agonizing but when I looked at you, all I could do was rejoice that the flames hadn't touched you.

Stunned, the girl looked at her mother through new eyes. Weeping in shame and gratitude, she kissed her mother's marred hands and arms. (sermoncentral.com)

A good mother will ***sacrifice*** for her children. A good mother will ***give her ALL*** to the Lord. A good mom will **HEED** the word of the Lord. That is how one moves from marginal to ***MIRACLE***!

* Anybody here today who is ***ready to give up***?
* The Lord has **already** given you some commands.
* You have heard Him. Now is the time to ***HEED*** Him.
* Now is the time to take Him at His word.
* Now is the ***time to give everything*** to Him.
* **Today** is the day — **NOW** is the time.
* You can ***move from marginal to miracle***!
* RIGHT NOW – **turn EVERYTHING over to the *Lord***!