

GOD OF THE IMPOSSIBLE

The Miracle Within You

2 Kings 4:1-7

A Sudden Crisis

2 Kings 4:1 (KJV) Now there cried a certain woman of the wives of the sons of the prophets unto Elisha, saying, Thy servant my husband is dead; and thou knowest that thy servant did fear the Lord: and the creditor is come to take unto him my two sons to be bondmen.

- 2 Kings 4 opens with a woman in crisis going to the prophet Elisha
- Her husband has died suddenly, and we can just imagine her grief at the passing of her husband and the father of their two sons
- The *loss of her husband* also created a *loss of income*, the bills were not being paid and the creditor has come to collect money she does not have
- The widow's husband was a godly man, and it does not appear from the text that the husband or the widow were wasteful, frivolous, or not honoring God with their finances
- Even responsible people can have a financial crisis
- In her despair the widow went to Elisha the prophet for advice and counsel
- This woman was talking to Elisha would be like you and I praying to God
- We too, must go to God in prayer and not allow the *pressure* of the situation "dictate" the decisions we make

What's in Your House?

[2] And Elisha said unto her, What shall I do for thee? tell me, what hast thou in the house? And she said, **Thine handmaid hath not any thing in the house, save a pot of oil.**

- Elisha says to the widow. "How can I help you?"
 - To put it another way, "you've told me about your problem, but you have not *asked me to do anything*"
- What was true of the *widow* is often true of *us*, we don't ask God for help **James 4:2 (KJV) "... ye have not, because ye ask not."**
- One of the greatest failures of believers is the failure to ask God in prayer for the help we need
- Our prayers demonstrate that we *believe* God will ultimately meet our needs according to His will and His timetable
- Elisha asks her another question, "*What's do you have in your house?*" or tell me what do you *already* have to help in this situation?
- The widow says, "I don't have *anything* except a pot of oil
- Oil is also symbolic of the Holy Spirit, the power of God in our lives
- Too many believers do not see the *potential*, or the *possibilities* of what God has given them
- Elisha asking the widow "what's in your house" was for her to recognize she had something to *start with* in her crisis
- Elisha wanted the widow to start *believing* there is a miracle in her
- The Lord is asking you today, what's in *your* house?
- There's *more* in your *house* than you realize
- The widow says, "I have nothing except a pot of oil."
 - Elisha has helped the widow take notice of a *previously overlooked* asset; the small pot of oil
 - God is helping you *now* take notice of your *previously overlooked*, gifts, talents and abilities

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- God often uses what is *nearby* and *available* to help us and bless us
- Elisha helped the woman *think* in a different way
- To get this debt paid off she had to start focusing more on *possible solutions* than on the *current problem*
- Elisha wanted her to be a *solutions thinker* instead of a “problems thinker”
- Are you a solutions thinker or a problems thinker?
- The Bible says as a man thinketh in his heart so is he
- Elisha helped by teaching the widow how to *help herself*
- You must be an *active participant* in your own miracle

The Plan

[3] Then he said, Go, borrow thee vessels abroad of all thy neighbours, even empty vessels; borrow not a few. [4] And when thou art come in, thou shalt shut the door upon thee and upon thy sons, and shalt pour out into all those vessels, and thou shalt set aside that which is full.

- God gave Elisha a plan for the widow to pay off her debt is this plan required her to be *directly* involved:
 1. Elisha told the widow to go to all your neighbors and they must be *empty vessels*
 - God can't use vessels that are already full
 - Sometimes we are the vessel that's already full
 2. *Borrow* as many vessels as you can, *not a few*
 - The number of vessels the widow brought into her house would *demonstrate* the level of her faith, obedience, and submission to God's plan
 - This is the time to take our limits off God, believe Him for all that we need ***Ephesians 3:20 (KJV) 20 Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,***
- 3. Go in your house and *shut the door* (self-quarantine) on you and your sons
 - Elisha said *shut the door* for four reasons:
 1. Shut out *every voice* that didn't believe (i.e. creditor, the neighbors, and others doubters)
 2. What she was doing was to going to give God glory and honor, not publicity for herself
 3. To pray and praise God as the miracle takes place
 4. She needed to be in an environment where she could focus on what God told her to do and not be influenced by the voices of others
- 4. Start *pouring* the oil from your *one small pot* into all the “bigger vessels”
 - When God gives you a plan you must *act on your faith in God* and carryout His plan

Working the Plan

[5] So she went from him, and shut the door upon her and upon her sons, who brought the vessels to her; and she poured out. [6] And it came to pass, when the vessels were full, that she said unto her son, Bring me yet a vessel. And he said unto her, There is not a vessel more. And the oil stayed.

- God through Elisha gave the woman *the idea* to pay off her debt, but she has to *do the work*

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- The woman needs faith *and* works to change her situation **James 2:17 (KJV) 17 Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.**
- How many *God ideas* and never implemented because we didn't *do* what God said
- The widow by faith *followed* the plan of Elisha
- We know the widow had faith in the plan of Elisha by her pure obedience to it
- She did *exactly* what Elisha said
- She shut the door with just her sons and began pouring oil into the vessels and her sons *setting them aside*
- **The oil was multiplied by her doing the pouring**
- In order to experience your miracle, you have to be an *active participant* in God's plan
- As long she had *faith to pour* and there were vessels available to fill, the oil kept flowing
- She asked for another vessel and her sons said there are no more, and then the oil stopped flowing
- The number of vessels gathered was the *measurement* of the widow's faith
- God's provision was as large as her faith and willingness to obey
- The miracle God wants to do in your life is determined by *your* level of faith and obedience
- Don't limit God's blessings by a lack of faith and obedience
- God invites us to *participate* in His miracle of provision
- Keep *working your plan* until you have the miracle God promised you (i.e. living debt free, owning a business, writing a book, etc.)

The Overflow

[7] Then she came and told the man of God. And he said, Go, sell the oil, and pay thy debt, and live thou and thy children of the rest.

- Some of us are saying, if she had only collected more containers, she would have received more oil
- She *did* receive *more* oil
- The widow went back to Elisha what do I now?
- Elisha told the widow to do three things:
 1. Go sell the oil
 2. Pay off the debt
 3. You and your children will live off the rest
- The widow sold the oil and paid the creditor, she and her sons would be able to live off the *overflow*
- This woman by faith collected enough vessels to take care of her *present* situation and her *future*
- Her faith and obedience turned life around
- She placed her faith in God's word, obeyed it and the blessings started flowing in!
- We can do the same, take God at His word and obey it
- We can *expect* God to do the miraculous when we walk in faith and obedience
- The widow came to God with a crisis and God showed her how to use what she had and it changed her life