



Mt. Olive Bible Study

Wednesday, January 17, 2024

TAKING
GOD
AT HIS
WORD

God Gives
Divine Instructions
Designed For
Increase

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Last Week, In Genesis 26....We Focused On.....

Prayer

Promises

Position

Principles

Problems

Perseverance

Purpose

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Tonight, In 2 Kings 4....We Will Focus On.....

Insight

Inventory

Instructions

Involvement

Increase

Introduction

As Christians, **We Are Not Immune** From Going Through Seasons of Lack

As Christians, **We Are Not Immune** From Financial Struggles

Although We May EXPERIENCE These Things Like The World....

We Should Have A Different EXPECTATION

We Have A God Who Specializes In Restoration

Joel 2:25 ~ **I Will Restore** Unto You The Years That The Locust Have Eaten

Jeremiah 30:17 ~ **I Will Restore** Health To You...

1 Peter 5:10 ~ After You Have Suffered For A Little While,
God **Himself Will Restore** You....

Job 42:10 ~ And The **Lord Restored** The Fortunes of Job...

Zechariah 9:12 ~ Today I Declare That **I Will Restore** You To Double

His First Miracle Is A Demonstration Of His Restoration Ability

They Ran Out Of Wine and He Gave **Instructions** That Led To **Restoration**

This Is The Story of 2 Kings 4 ~ God Is Able To **Shift You**

From **Insufficiency** To **Increase** ~ If You Are Willing To Follow **Instructions**

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*Connected To An **Intercessor** That Gives **Insight***

2 Kings 4:1-2 (NIV)

*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."*

*2 Elisha replied to her, "**How can I help you?**"*

*In the midst of her financial crisis, God sends a Prophet to **Intercede**..*

Would It Make More Sense To Send A Financial Advisor

*No, Because She Was **Not Facing A Financial Issue**, But a **FAITH ISSUE***

*Faith Is The Substance of things Hoped For...
The Evidence of Things Not Seen*

Tony Evans Says....

*Faith is **acting like something is so....** even when it is not so
in order that it might be so... **simply because God said so***

Faith Can Carry You Through, When Your Credit Is Extended Beyond Limit

Faith Can Carry You Through, When Your Resources Are Insufficient

YOU MUST BELIEVE SO!!!

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Connected To An *Intercessor* That Gives *Insight*

2 Kings 4:1-2 (NIV)

2 Elisha replied to her, "How can I help you?"

In Her Time Of Lack, The Man of God PROVIDES INSIGHT

INSIGHT is the power to see into a situation TO GAIN UNDERSTANDING

Insight Begins With Gathering Information

2 Kings 4:2 (NIV)

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 LITTLE OIL."

This is a familiar method that Jesus often uses...

HE KNOWS ALL but he asks to MEASURE OUR FAITH...

HE DOES NOT ASK FOR INFORMATION, BUT FOR REVELATION...

- *Disciples Had Toiled all night, asked them what did you catch? NOTHING*
 - *How much would it take to feed this 5,000 – 8 Month's wages to feed*
 - *How long has this boy been like this? – since childhood*

BEFORE GOD CHANGES YOUR PROBLEM ~ WHAT IS YOUR PERSPECTIVE?

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Proper Assessment of Personal Inventory

2 Kings 4:2 (NIV)

2 Tell me, what do you have in your house?" "Your servant has NOTHING THERE AT ALL," she said, "EXCEPT A LITTLE OIL."

Her Breakthrough was in her house... Many times, we are looking outside for what God has already placed within reach...

God has already equipped us with what we need to succeed...

Hagar In Genesis 21

19 Then God OPENED HER EYES and she saw A WELL OF WATER. So she went and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink.

*Elisha wants to know, "What are YOUR RESOURCES?"
What do you have that God can multiply.... *She had told him what she lost!**

Notice Her Response:

Nothing There At ALL... Except A Little Oil...

What seems minimal to you; can be maximized with God...

DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING THE LORD CAN USE?

Little Boys Lunch ~ David's slingshot ~ Moses' Rod

WHAT YOU THINK IS NOT ENOUGH... IS JUST ENOUGH FOR GOD

Proper Assessment of Personal Inventory

2 Kings 4:2 (NIV)

2.....Tell me, what do you have in your house?"

She Knew The Oil Was Valuable...She Didn't Think It Was Enough

You Know that prayer has value... but you don't think its enough

You know that God's Word has value....but you don't think its enough

QUIT DEPENDING ON STUFF THAT YOU CAN PUT A PRICE TAG ON!!!

YOU HAVE PROMISES OF GOD

My God shall supply all my needs

No Good thing will he withhold from them that walk upright

The Lord is my Shepherd I shall not want

God is a very present help in time of trouble

YOU HAVE THE PRIVILEGE OF PRAYER

Call on me in time of trouble and I will show you great and mighty things

*I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it,
and it will be yours.*

*Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find;
knock, and it will be opened to you.*

*If you abide in me, and my words abide in you,
ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.*

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Personal Responsibility To Follow Instructions

2 Kings 4:3-4 (NIV)

*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."*

Most People *Desire Increase* Without Accountability and *Instructions*
Often, We forfeit our blessings, because of *failure to follow* God's Blueprint

Proverbs 16:20 (NIV)

*20 Whoever gives heed to instruction prospers
and blessed is he who trusts in the LORD.*

Following God's Instructions Requires Humility

*Can you imagine her going to her neighbors and asking: "I know this may not
make sense, but I want to borrow some empty jars, pots, or vessels...WHY?
The man of God told me to do it..." I know it seems ridiculous,
but I believe in God enough,
to look **Foolish for a Season**, so I can have **Favor for a Lifetime**.*

Sometimes.... Following God ~ Don't Make Sense ~ But It Pays Off

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God's Increase Includes Your Involvement

2 Kings 4:5-6 (NLT)

5 *So she did as she was told.* Her sons kept bringing jars to her,
and *she filled one after another.*

The Key To Your Breakthrough Is Connected To Your Obedience

March Around The Walls Six Days and On 7th Day Shout and Walls Will Fall Down

Go Dip In The Dirty Jordan River 7 Times and You Will Be Healed

Cast Your Nets on the Right Side In The Deep Water For A Great Catch

Believing In God Is Not Explained, It Is Experienced....

I don't Know How... I Just Believe He WILL...

*Even though God is able to do exceedingly, and abundantly above all we can ask or think... **IT IS DONE ACCORDING TO YOUR FAITH....***

He still commands our participation... He still solicits our involvement.

TWO EXTREMES USUALLY COME INTO PLAY?

Some people want to do it all by themselves;

And some just wait and expect God to do everything.

We must understand Divine Sovereignty and Human Responsibility...

*Do what **you can** and allow God to handle **what you can't.***

*God wants to involve you in **your breakthrough** ~ God wants you to participate in **your turnaround***

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God's Increase Includes Your Involvement

2 Kings 4:5 (NIV)

3) Elisha said, "Go around and ask all your neighbors for empty jars.

DON'T JUST ASK FOR A FEW

6)...When all the jars were full, she said to her son, Bring me another one...."

He Replied, "there is not a jar left... *THEN THE OIL STOPPED FLOWING*"

Don't Limit Your Increase By Settling For Enough

She ran out of vessels before she ran out of oil...

Here is the Implication

*It is not that God does not have **MORE FOR YOU...***

*You Just Don't Have **THE CAPACITY** To Receive More*

God Says, I Will Keep Pouring When You Have The Capacity

"Enlarge My Territory Mindset"

Often, Our Expectation Is Too Small...

WHAT ARE YOU EXPECTING GOD TO DO IN THIS SEASON!!!!

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Obedience Will Always Lead To Increase

2 Kings 4:7 (NIV)

7 She went and told the man of God, and he said, "Go, sell the oil and pay your debts. You and your sons can live on what is left."

When the day was done, there was enough oil in those borrowed vessels to settle her debts, meet her desires, and supply for her dependents.

Her Needs Were Met Because She Was Willing To Follow Instructions

Proverbs 3:9-10 (NKJV)

*9 Honor the Lord with your possessions, And with the firstfruits of all your increase;
10 So your barns will be filled with plenty, And your vats will overflow with new wine.*

1 Corinthians 16:2 (ESV)

2 On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that there will be no collecting when I come.

2 Corinthians 9:6 (NIV)

6 Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.