

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

The Problem Isn't the Oil, It's the Vessels

Scripture Text: 2 Kings 4:1–7 (NKJV)

1. FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT (2 KINGS 4:1–7 NKJV)

Verse 1: A certain woman of the wives of the sons of the prophets cried out to Elisha, saying, “Your servant my husband is dead, and you know that your servant **FEARED THE LORD. And the creditor is coming to take MY TWO SONS to be his slaves.**”

Verse 2: So Elisha said to her, “**WHAT SHALL I DO FOR YOU? Tell me, WHAT DO YOU HAVE IN THE HOUSE?**” And she said, “Your maidservant has nothing in the house **BUT A JAR OF OIL.**”

Verse 3: Then he said, “Go, borrow vessels from everywhere, from all your neighbors, **EMPTY VESSELS; DO NOT GATHER JUST A FEW.**”

Verse 4: And when you have come in, you **SHALL SHUT THE DOOR** behind you and your sons; then pour it into all those vessels, and set aside the full ones.”

Verse 5: So she went from him and shut the door behind her and her sons, who brought the vessels to her; and **SHE POURED IT OUT.**

Verse 6: Now it came to pass, when the vessels were full, that she said to her son, “**BRING ME ANOTHER VESSEL.**” And he said to her, “**THERE IS NOT ANOTHER VESSEL.**” **SO THE OIL CEASED.**

Verse 7: Then she came and told the man of God. And he said, “**Go, sell the oil and PAY YOUR DEBT; and you and your sons LIVE ON THE REST.**”

Somebody lift your hands in this building right now and declare: **GOD IS ABOUT TO FILL MY HOUSE!**

I came to preach to somebody who feels like they're sitting at the absolute end of their rope. Look at 2 Kings chapter 4. A woman, a widow of the sons of the prophets,

comes crying out to Elisha. Her husband is dead. **The creditors are pounding on the front door. And they aren't just coming for her furniture, honey; they're coming (for her future) to take her two sons to be slaves!**

Can I tell you something about the enemy? The devil is a collector!

- The debt came from doing right. This draws on Josephus' tradition that she was Obadiah's widow.
 - You remember Obadiah. When Jezebel was slaughtering the prophets of God, Obadiah hid 100 prophets in the caves 50 to a cave and kept them alive with bread and water according to first kings 18:4.
 - According to Josephus, he borrowed the money to do it. The debt was not the fruit of his sin. It was the cost of his obedience.
- But the devil does not care what causes the debt - He wants to collect on your past, collect on your family,

and make your children pay for the battles you were fighting! But somebody needs to tell the devil today: 'Hands off my seed! Hands off my future!'

- Now look at who shows up. The creditor. The Law of Moses allowed a man who could not pay his debt to work it off, and his household could be bound in service until the year of release Leviticus 25:39-41 (KJV). This creditor is not breaking the law. He is using it.
 - **The enemy does not always break the rules to take what is yours. Sometimes he just reads the fine print better than you do.**
- Listen to me. Notice what he came for. He did not come for the furniture. He did not come for the goats. He came for the sons. The devil is not after your stuff, and he never has been. Stuff is a decoy. He is after what comes next. **He wants the next generation, the next assignment, the next chapter.** If he can take your sons, he can shut down your future without ever touching your present.
- **Somebody in this room is standing at that same door. You served God. You loved people. You gave when it hurt. Now there is a knock you cannot answer.**

Look at what Elisha asks her. He does not say, 'Let me write you a check.' **He asks a diagnostic question: 'What shall I do for you? Tell me, what do you have in the house?'** And what does she say? 'Your maidservant has nothing in the house... EXCEPT a jar of oil.'

I came to tell somebody: **STOP DISCOUNTING YOUR EXCEPT!**

- You're sitting here saying, 'I've got nothing left, Pastor.'
- My strength is gone.
- My bank account is wiped out.
- My peace is shattered.'

But God is saying, 'Look again!' Because that little drop of oil, that last seed of faith, that remnant of praise you kept in the middle of your heartbreak, is the exact place where the Holy Ghost is getting ready to start an explosion of breakthrough!

Here is what I love about God. He could have done this from scratch. He is the God who spoke light into darkness and called worlds out of nothing. He does not

need her flask. He chooses it. Moses had a rod. David had a sling. A boy had five loaves and two fish. Over and over again, **God refuses to start with nothing when you have something.**

Omnipotence does not need your participation. It invites it.

- God will not skip over what is in your house to give you what is in somebody else's. You keep staring at their oil. Heaven keeps asking about yours.
- **Learn to preach from your except. "I have nothing, except." "I have no money, except." "I have no connections, except." Whatever follows your except is where God is about to begin.**

YOUR EMPTY IS YOUR ASSIGNMENT

- **"Go, borrow thee vessels abroad of all thy neighbours, even EMPTY VESSELS; BORROW NOT A FEW." 2 Kings 4:3 (KJV)**

Hear me today! **WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?**

- We spend all our time blaming God for the dry season.

- We say, ‘God, why isn’t the oil flowing? God, why isn’t the revival breaking out? God, why isn’t the blessing coming down?’

But the Lord told me to tell somebody in this place: **THE PROBLEM ISN’T THE OIL, IT’S THE VESSELS!**

- God has unlimited oil!
- Heaven is not suffering from a resource shortage!

God doesn’t perform miracles in what is full of pride, full of self-sufficiency, or full of human logic! He looks for the empty places! He looks for broken places! He looks for people who say, ‘Lord, I am completely empty without You! If You don’t step into this, I don’t have a Plan B!’

Empty is not your enemy. Empty is your capacity.

- We have been trained to fear empty. Empty accounts. Empty houses. Empty calendars. Empty arms.
- We pray against empty like it is a demon that needs to be cast out.

- **Empty is not the problem. Empty is the requirement. Heaven cannot fill what you insist on keeping full.**

She goes around the neighborhood. Knock, knock, knock. ‘Give me your empty pots! Give me your empty jars!’ She drags them all into her living room. And then Elisha gives her instruction number two: **‘And when you have come in, you shall shut the door behind you and your sons...’**

Somebody shout: **SHUT THE DOOR!**

There are some things God will only do behind a closed door because the crowd would either take credit for it or talk you out of it.

There are some miracles God will ONLY perform when it’s just you, the Holy Spirit, and the Word!

- Somebody needs to close some doors this week.
- Close the door on the commentary.
- Close the door on the group text.
- Close the door on the relatives who have already written the last chapter of your story.
- You have got to shut the door on the doubters!

- You have got to shut the door on the critics!
- You have got to shut the door on the voices that say, ‘It’s over, you’re never going to recover, your family is going to sink!’

Not every voice gets a seat in the room where God is working.

Now look at who is in the room with her. Her sons. The text says they brought the vessels to her. Do you see what God just did? The very sons the creditor came to take became the ones carrying the jars.

- The generation the enemy came to take became the generation that carried the anointing.

Stop hiding your children from the move of God. Get them in the room. Let them carry something. Let them watch oil come out of a flask that should have been dry an hour ago. They may forget what you said, but they will never forget what they carried.

One more thing about that room. The oil did not multiply while it sat on the shelf. It multiplied while she was pouring.

- With every jar, she had to tilt that little flask and trust that something would still be in it.
- She never saw the next jar filled until she emptied into the one in front of her.

The oil does not multiply in the pot. It multiplies in the pour.

- She takes that little jar. She starts pouring. Glug, glug, glug...
- First vessel filled! She doesn't stop.
- She moves to the next one. Filled! She keeps pouring. Filled!

Now look at verse 6! This is the key right here: 'Now it came to pass, when the vessels were full, that she said to her son, "Bring me another vessel." And he said to her, "There is not another vessel." So the oil ceased.'

Did you hear that?! **The oil didn't stop because the SOURCE DRIED UP! The oil stopped because there was NO MORE CAPACITY!**

- God is saying to this house today: **‘Expand your capacity!’**
- Bring Me bigger expectations!
- Bring Me empty spaces!’

If you bring Him small faith, you get a small miracle. But if you gather every empty area of your life and lay it at the feet of Jesus, He will keep pouring until every debt is paid, every yoke is broken, and every generational curse is wiped out!

Look at verse 7! The prophet says: **‘Go, sell the oil and pay your debt; and you and your sons live on the rest!’**

God doesn’t just want to get you out of trouble; He wants to set you up for a future of supernatural abundance! He didn’t just save her sons from slavery. He paid off the mortgage, **He unlocked the future, and He brought her into a REALM OF NO EXPLANATION!**

If you believe God is about to pour out supernatural oil over your family, your finances, and your mind today, I

**want you to get out of your seat, run down to this altar,
lift up your empty hands, and GET READY TO RECEIVE!**