

I. Intro

A. Text: **2 Kings 4:1-7**

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.”*

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.”*

³ *Then he said, “Go, borrow vessels from everywhere, from all your neighbors—empty vessels; do not gather just a few. 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.”*

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. 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.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.” (2 Kings 4:1-7)

A. Recap

1. The last time we saw Elijah...
 - i. Elijah got ripped away by a whirlwind in a chariot of fire
 - ii. Looked like Elijah’s story had ended.
 - i. Probably wondering why we’re talking about another guy (Elisha) when Elijah is gone on to be with the Lord.
2. Story of Elijah did not stop with Elijah
 - i. It don’t stop.

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- ii. We don't die... We multiply
 - iii. Crucified our King and thought the Kingdom would crumble.
3. Context
- i. Elisha Caught the Mantle (**2 Kings 2:13**)
 - i. Split the Jordan River (**2 Kings 2:14**)
 - The Spirit that was on Elijah was on Elisha
 - ii. Healed the Bitter Water in Jericho (**2 Kings 2:19-22**)
 - ii. The nation was rampant with apostasy and it seemed like everyone had turned their backs on the one and true God in favor of a man-made god called Baal.
 - i. But God left a remnant (7,000).
 - ii. In 3 specific cities (Bethel, Gilgal and Jericho), there seemed to be almost cities of refuge where small pockets of believers populated and grew together.
 - iii. These cities contained something like prophetic training schools and the men were raised up together in this ministry were called Sons of the Prophets.
 - iv. Elisha was looked at as something of a mentor or teacher among the prophets.
 - iii. Good things going on in Bethel, Gilgal and Jericho.
 - i. Prophetic moves
 - ii. Miraculous moves
 - iv. Elisha had the honor of encountering a certain woman: The wife of one of the Sons of the Prophets.

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- i. Husband had stood for right in the face of a wicked king named Ahab and his 1st Lady Jezebel.
 - ii. Went against the grain in the midst of a culture that had rejected God: “Feared the Lord”
 - iii. Husband had likely risked his life to stand for the one true God.
 - iv. Popular thinking is that since the family was sold out for God, they would have been walking in great prosperity and pretty circumstances.
 - v. Besides, they were good people.

4. Bad things happen to good people (**2 Kings 4:1**)

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." (2 Kings 4:1)

- i. Certain woman (Wife of one of the Sons of the Prophets)
 - i. Good qualities
 - ii. Good resume
 - iii. Bad times:
 - Called not only to believe in Christ, but to suffer for Him. (**Phil. 1:29**)
 - All who desire to live Godly will suffer persecution (**2 Tim. 3:12**)

5. This certain woman lost her husband (covering, protection, provision)

- i. The only means of her surviving would be the hope that one day her sons to mature enough to take care of her.
 - i. Within days, she would be even losing her hope.

...And the creditor is coming to take my two sons to be his slaves.” (2 Kings 4:1b)

II. When You’ve Lost Everything and Hope is Next (**2 Kings 4**)

² So Elisha said to her, “What shall I do for you? Tell me, what do you have in the house?” (2 Kings 4:2)

A. Is there anything left?

1. You lost much, but do you have anything left in the house? Anything left in your body?
 - i. Youth, integrity, brain cells, etc.
 - i. Is there anything left?
 - ii. There’s nothing that you lost (that has any real value) that God can’t raise up again!
 - iii. Tendency is to focus so much on the value of what was lost that we fail to recognize that if we’ve got breath, we’ve got something left.
 - i. If you’ve got breath left...
2. Anything left in the house that you surrender to God, is enough.
 - i. Moses: “What do you have in your hand?”
 - ii. Sack lunch for a multitude of 5,000. That will do.

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.”

A. Do you know the value of oil? (**2 Kings 4:2b**)

1. Nothing
 - a. Nothing... Suggests that the oil was almost overlooked.
 - i. Complete inventory of all that she possessed and found nothing... but oil.

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2. Olive Oil had several practical use in that culture.
 - a. Cooking, cosmetics, medicine
 3. Oil had great spiritual implications in that culture.
 - a. Oil was the component used for anointing. Oil is symbolic for anointing in scripture.

Anointing (mashach #4886): to smear, rub, paint with oil

- b. **Is. 10:27:** *It shall come to pass in that day That his burden will be taken away from your shoulder, And his yoke from your neck, And the yoke will be destroyed because of the anointing oil.*
 - c. **Is. 61:1:** *The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me. Because the Lord has anointed me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to captives and the opening of prison to those who are bound.*
4. If the anointing oil breaks yokes, cancels debts and bondage, heals the sick... than its value is incalculable!
5. It might seem like you've got nothing... But if you've got a little oil.
 - a. Position, physical attributes, voice, scholastic aptitude, relationship... Just give me the anointing.
6. The Anointed One (Meshiah) is Jesus.
 - a. He is our anointing oil.
 - b. He breaks yokes
 - c. It may seem like you've got nothing left in the house.
 - d. But if you've got King Jesus, you don't need nothing else.

B. Are you willing to seek out more empty vessels? (**2 Kings 4:3**)

³ Then he said, “Go, borrow vessels from everywhere, from all your neighbors—empty vessels; do not gather just a few (**2 Kings 4:3**)

1. What God has given you, He fully expects you to give away to others. Find others like you.

a. **2 Cor. 5:18:** ¹⁸Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation,

b. **Luke 14:23:** ²³Then the master said to the servant, ‘Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.

2. Empty Vessels

a. God is attracted to ones who’ve acknowledged their emptiness.

b. **Charles Spurgeon:** “A full Christ is for empty sinners, and for empty sinners only... It is not our emptiness, but our fullness that hinders the outpouring of God’s grace”.

3. God is passionate about increase. Don’t just gather a few. Go BIG!

³ Then he said, “Go, borrow vessels from everywhere, from all your neighbors—empty vessels; do not gather just a few. (**2 Kings 4:3b**)

a. Addition is good. But He’s also the God of Multiplication.

b. Don’t stop at your duty.

i. Passionately gather.

ii. Faithfully gather.

iii. Til the wheels fall off, gather

⁴And 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.” (2 Kings 4:4)

c. **Pour Out:** The pathway to increase is in your pouring out what you have left into others.

i. Multiplication is brought forth by emptying out.

ii. You want increase? Make room for more by pouring out what you already have.

4. When the outpouring stopped, the supply stopped. (**2 Kings 4:5-6**)

⁵So she went from him and shut the door behind her and her sons, who brought the vessels to her; and she poured it out. ⁶Now 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.

a. The amount of oil supplied was proportionate to the number of vessels being poured into.

b. We were never designed to be receivers only.

i. **John 7:37b-38:** “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. ³⁸He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.”

III. Conclusion (**2 Kings 4:7**)

⁷Then 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.” (2 Kings 4:7)

A. The oil that sprung up from filling other empty vessels was so valuable that it freed the widow from her debt.

1. Debt is a form of bondage and oppression that we know a little something about.

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2. The anointing oil (meshiah)... supplied these empty vessels and delivered the widow from bondage.
 - i. Be loosed from all debt.
 - ii. Be loosed from all bondage.
 - iii. Loosed from oppression.

*The oil canceled all of her past. It cleared her up and freed her from all of her former issues.

B. Overflow

⁷Then 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." (2 Kings 4:7)

1. The oil that she almost overlooked, launched her into a season of more than enough.