

Empty Vessels

2 Kings 4:1-7 *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? Tell me, what do you have in your house?”*

“Your servant has nothing there at all,” she said, “except a small jar of olive oil.”

³ *Elisha said, “Go around and ask all your neighbours 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.”*

⁵ *She left him and shut the door behind her and her sons. They brought the jars to her and she kept pouring.* ⁶ *When all the jars were full, she said to her son, “Bring me another one.”*

But he replied, “There is not a jar left.” Then the oil stopped flowing.

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.”*

Introduction

1. Learning from the Old Testament

- 1.1 Examples and Warnings (1 Cor. 10:6,11)
- 1.2 Recorded to teach, encourage and give hope (Rom 15:4)

2. A time of many miracles

- 2.1 Miracles can always take place, but sometimes they occur more often (examples: Moses, Elijah, Elisha, Jesus)
- 2.2 What lesson do we learn from this account that is verified by the New Testament?

The Real Crisis

1. Bad things can happen to good people

- 1.1 “Job’s comforters” – you must have sinned and God is punishing you
- 1.2 Suffering is unavoidable

2. The woman’s problem

- 2.1 Financial debt, despite her devotion
- 2.2 Fearful consequences - slavery

Righteous Counsel

1. The right question: “How can I help you?”

- 1.1 Not simply ... how to feel better
- 1.2 What has God already supplied?
- 1.3 What do you have in your house?

2. The right response: Active faith

- 2.1 The facts – only some oil
- 2.2 The truth – but God
- 2.3 Ask for many empty vessels

God's Requirement

What does God need to work His work?

1. He needs more empty vessels (2 Tim 2:20-21)

- 1.1 Consecrated – clean through the blood of Jesus
- 1.2 Ready for God to use

2. The supply is only stopped when there are no more empty vessels

- 2.1 We bring the vessels
- 2.2 God's anointing will be present to fill them

Conclusion

- 1. Responding in a time of crisis opens doors to destiny**
- 2. Commit yourself to being available to God**

Ron's Quotes:

*“If you and I respond correctly in a time of crisis,
It will lead to a future destiny”*

*“Real faith, Biblical faith
always responds to God's word;
it is always obedient,
always willing to act”*

