

SUSTAINED

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."

Today's text, though it feels specific, is actually strategically universal. In the Hebrew language, the fact that it is a certain woman is significant because it tells us explicitly this is not an anonymous woman, the writer knows who she is, and yet, intentionally chooses not to identify who she is. The author is making a shift, this story isn't about her legacy, her influence, her title, this story isn't about who she is, it's about what God does. The author leaves her unnamed and in doing so allows you to identify with her and illuminates who God can be in your story. She becomes any widow, any desperate parent, any person facing impossible loss... In other words, this could be you.

This could be you dealing with an announcement over you that is producing panic in you. That is what she is dealing with, she is dealing with a creditor.

She isn't dealing with that creditor who you're going to try to block and ignore calls, and avoid.

This creditor, because of social breakdown, because of spiritual breakdown, is coming to collect debt in her calamity. He is coming at a set time, and He is coming with a set purpose,, and He has the authority to collect. This isn't how God instructed for it to be. God had set up ways for widows to be cared for, but as you and I know the world is not as it

was intended to be. And just like this woman, when we deal with rising waves of calamity we have a spiritual enemy or a creditor that would love to come and rob from your identity, legacy, and your future. [He would love to use the moments where you are afflicted to lift up an announcement over your life that causes you to cave in where you are called to contend. This could be you in your affliction having a banner lifted over your life!](#)

Because of your past I am coming for your future.

Because of your failed marriage I am coming for your legacy, this is how you'll always be remembered.

Because of your loss, I am coming for a life where you can have joy.

Because of your inability, I am coming to wreak havoc on every potential relationship and there is nothing you can do about it.

Because of your limitations and lack of education, I will control your future and your potential.

Because your dad wasn't present, I will keep you from ever getting ahead.

This is what the spiritual enemy does:

He lifts announcements over your life.

This woman is dealing with the announcement of the enemy. But I am so grateful that this woman did not accept the announcement, but that she appealed the announcement. The way the original Hebrew is worded shows that this woman is appealing, similar to how an attorney would appeal to a judge. Can I remind you: [You can appeal the announcements over your life.](#)

It's like this: It's that wonderful time of year, spring has sprung, the Masters were last week, and summer is on the horizon, and in the middle of a beautiful season the other day my wife came back from the mailbox with our favorite piece of mail for the year, the property tax assessment. Aren't those the best, it's that one time every year where my house is worth triple what I paid for it in 2020. by the way thank you everyone who works in the county tax assessor office we do love you, are grateful for you, and as for me and my house will be nice to you. What is interesting about this letter is that it is an announcement, and I can accept it or I can appeal it.

I came to remind you today that though you may have announcements that have been made over you, you can appeal to your father in heaven! Watch this: [Instead of caving into the announcement that has been made over your life, you can contend by appealing to a God who has a better assessment for your life.](#)

The prophet reveals the conversation that God wants to bring you into. He says what can I do for you. Can I remind you that your God's heart isn't cold, but is compassionate!

[Watch the conversation the prophet pulls her into.](#)

What do you have?!

I am here today to pull you into another conversation. To get you fascinated and mesmerized by another conversation.

One ear here, one ear there illustration

Because though the enemy shouts over your life, heaven has a greater story for your life.

How do you know which conversation your ear is allowing to counsel you?

The enemy multiplies what you lost

God multiplies what you have left

The enemy says you have nothing

God says you still have something

The enemy says its over

God says theres more

The enemy reveals what has been placed over you

God reveals what He placed in you that has not been activated yet.

The enemy multiplies the reasons to accept it and cave in

God multiplies the reasons to appeal it and contend

So watch what happens... The prophet pulls her into a conversation and then compels her to act on her appeal. You see a MIRACLE IS ON THE WAY, but its method of delivery is different than you may expect.

Different methods of delivery

White Glove // Expectation

Build it yourself // Experience

The miracle is 6 parts:

1. An old forgotten jar
2. Neighbors generosity
3. Private obedience
4. Persistent pouring
5. Sons effort
6. Multiplication of the oil

This is how the miracle of God often is experienced. If you have 5 without the 6th you have nothing... So you can't do it without God showing up, but God often won't do it unless you are willing to show up!

A real appeal walks through the process. A real appeal doesn't just experience the feeling of desiring a different reality, but actually contends in faith to receive that new reality!

She obeys and the text shows us that God shows up. God shows up in our obedience. God shows up when we are more captivated by our conversation with Him than the conversation our creditor wants to have over us. God shows up!

And watch what happens when God shows up:

The creditor comes after: Identity, Legacy, Future

God shows up and uses the work of her hands to sell in society/THATS IDENTITY, the harvest of her work to send the creditor packing/THATS LEGACY DEFINING, and His excessive provision is enough for them to live on//THAT IS THEIR FUTURE.

Isaiah 59:19

WHEN THE ENEMY SUDDENLY LIFTS AN ANNOUNCEMENT, GOD RISES A STANDARD AGAINST THE ENEMY BY CAUSING US TO BECOME MORE THAN CONQUERORS THROUGH OUR OBEDIENCE.

Preaching in Dallas // Ted

Quote // Awareness + Agency = Anointing(Oil)

Isaiah 10:27

I felt like God sent me here to call you to captivate you to compel you into contending to listen in on a greater conversation concerning your identity, legacy and future.

The anointing of contending

Oil in Jars

Sometimes the yoke slips // Jesus

Sometimes it snaps // Jesus

Altar call // The courtroom Before Jesus overruled after Jesus SUSTAINED