

2 Kings 4:1-7  
“*Empty Enough*”

**INTRODUCTION -**

AS YOU SETTLE IN PLEASE TURN TO 2 Kings 4:1-7...

- I've titled tonight's message: **“Empty Enough”**

OVER THIS LAST WEEKEND - BJJ COMP

- The biggest souvenir was a dislocated finger! - [Buddy Tape]
  - Spiritually, many of us do the opposite when hurt—we isolate.
    - That those who are healthy should be support pillars to those who are spiritually sick
      - Hebrews 10:25 NLT
        - Literally buddy tape yourself to them so that healing can occur

AND THATS GOING TO BE WHAT WE SEE IN OUR STUDY...

- A woman who is desperate and in need
  - In the middle of a crisis she runs to the prophet Elisha to help.

(READ V.1-7)

**LET'S PRAY -**

**IDEA 1 - WHEN LIFE RUNS EMPTY**

(READ V.1-2)

SO HERE WE'RE INTRODUCED TO THIS WOMAN

- She is in the middle of familial and financial collapse
  - Her husband is gone, her future feels uncertain, and now even her children are at risk.

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- Seems like this was a young family...
  - And so they were now in a spot where this woman never imagined she would be in

NOW THIS WOMAN WAS DESPERATE AND HOPELESS

- But notice what she does... In the middle of her trial she runs to God
  - trials shows the reality that we have to be fully dependent on God
    - James 1:2 NLT
      - We can have Joy because there is a confidence that God will use it to mature us spiritually and that God is bigger than the trial
        - AND WHAT'S THE RESULT? Verse 4

KING DAVID WOULD HAVE EXPERIENCED THIS FEELING MANY TIMES

- David, this mighty man of God was constantly on the verge of collapse, mentally emotionally, spiritually and physically.
  - Psalm 18:4-6 NIV
    - He realizes his condition but called out to God...
      - It wasn't until he did this that God gave him peace
        - V.33 its a picture of a mountain goat
          - Key: God Gives His people stability even in dangerous places

AND SO THE WOMAN RUNS TO ELISHA WITH THIS GREAT NEED

- The prophet asked her what do you have in your house
  - Often times we focus on what we don't have.
    - Even your deficit can be an asset in the Lords hands
      - But what little the woman had she brought forward
        - God can do exceedingly abundantly above...
          - Think about moses' staff'
          - The boy with the 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish
            - Little is much when God is in it!

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(READ V.3-5)

**IDEA 2 - WHEN FAITH FEELS EMPTY**

WHAT IS NICE FOR US IS THAT WE READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

- She had to make the decision to step out in faith and obedience without knowing all of the details
  - It would have been extremely weird and even uncomfortable...
    - risk being vulnerable with them...
      - Elisha made her do it all.
        - He knew that she had to trust God for herself and to experience his grace first hand

WEDDING AT CANA WHEN JESUS TURNED THE WATER INTO WINE

- Both of these miracles follow a similar rhythm
  - He was asking them to do a BIG chore.
    - John tells us these six stone jars held around 20–30 gallons each—roughly 150 gallons total.
      - All that without a hose or a sink all the way to the brim
        - Yet Jesus doesn’t explain himself, he just tells them to fill it up, not half way but to the brim
          - This is complete obedience

THE WOMAN AND HER SONS TRUSTED AND OBEYED

- The limitation in the story wasn’t God’s supply—it was the number of vessels brought.
  - We settle for too little because we stop trusting too soon
    - Her obedience was reflected in the number of jars she gathered.

PRINCIPLE: GOD’S PROVISIONS OFTEN FOLLOWS OBEDIENCE, NOT UNDERSTANDING

- Too many believers wait until everything makes sense
  - But faith is hearing what God wants you to do and doing it
    - What has God already told you to do that you are delaying?

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(READ V. 6-7)

**IDEA 3 - WHEN GOD FILLS THE EMPTY**

GOD CARED FOR THEM IN THEIR TIME OF DESPERATION BUT GAVE THEM EVEN MORE TO SUSTAIN THEM BEYOND THE CRISIS

- She had enough to sell and pay her debts and even more left over to live on
  - What I love is that the leftover oil would have been a reminder...
    - 1 Peter 5:7 NLT

THE REALITY IS THAT WE MAKE OUR BLESSINGS LITTLE BECAUSE OUR PRAYERS ARE LITTLE

- Charles Spurgeon:
  - “If she borrowed few vessels, she would have but little oil; if she borrowed many vessels they should all be filled, and she should have much oil. She was herself to measure out what she should have; and I believe that you and I, in the matter of spiritual blessings from God, have more to do with the measurement of our mercies than we think. We make our blessings little, because our prayers are little.”
    - Imagine if the woman would have just stopped at 4 or 5 pots when God wanted to provide so much more for her!
      - [CAUTION - NOT WORD OF FAITH]
        - God’s power is not controlled by our faith
          - Sometimes we stop asking too soon, stop trusting too soon, or expecting too little of a God who is able.

ITS GOOD TO BE AWARE THAT YOU LACK BUT DONT LET THAT BE AN IMPEDIMENT TO BEING USED BY GOD!

- The limitation wasn’t God’s supply, It was the number of vessels brought
  - And God often fills the space faith makes available
    - The biblical truth is that God is not stingy
      - Sometimes we stop bringing God empty vessels too soon.

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GOD PROVIDED MORE THAN WHAT WAS NEEDED.

- Mercy is not getting what you deserve
- Grace is getting what your don't deserve
  - This widow's story points us to a greater reality—that Jesus paid our greatest debt in full, and offers grace we could never earn.

**CALL WORSHIP UP**

**APPLICATION**

WE JUST GOT TO FOLLOW THIS STORY OF GREAT FAITH

- That when this woman had nothing to give but emptiness, God said that is enough for me!
  - a. She had a problem she couldn't solve
  - b. Obedience she couldn't explain
  - c. And Provision she couldn't imagine
    - And it has everything to do with God's Grace and nothing to do with what she had to give

He's just looking for someone finally empty enough to trust Him.

**PRAY**