

God to the Rescue!

In This Series...

1. We are learning that most of us could think much bigger about what we can do for the sake of God's Kingdom.
2. We are seeing that common, faithful people, with a big dream, and great faith, can make a tremendous difference in our world.

The Scriptures

"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.'" ²Elisha 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 little oil." ³Elisha said, "Go around and ask all your neighbours for empty jars. Don't ask for just a few." ⁴Then 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." ⁵She left him and afterward shut the door behind her and her sons. They brought the jars to her and she kept pouring. ⁶When 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. ⁷She 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." - 2 Kings 4:1-7

Two Stories of the Multiplication of Oil

Elijah - 1 Kings 17:7-16	Elisha - 2 Kings 4:1-7
Foreign widow	Israelite widow
Elijah commanded to go by God	Wife of the prophet came to Elisha
One son	Two sons
Had no food, would starve to death	No money, sons to be taken as slaves
Oil and flour multiplied	Oil multiplied till all vessels were full

What Do We Learn About the Widow?

1. She cried out for help in her desperate situation.
"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 Kings 4:1
 - We are reminded that bad things can happen to good people.
 - It is often during times of tremendous need that we recognize our desperate need for God.
2. She was obedient to the word of the LORD through Elisha.
"She left him and afterward shut the door behind her and her sons. They brought the jars to her and she kept pouring." - 2 Kings 4:5

3. She took action, and her faith grew along with the oil.

"When all the jars were full, she said to her son, 'Bring me another one.'" - 2 Kings 4:6

What Do We Learn About Elisha?

1. He was a man of great compassion.
"Elisha replied, 'How can I help you? Tell me, what do you have in your house?'" - v. 2
 - He was willing to help a poor widow.
 - He helped her recognize what she had and gave her a way to help herself.
2. He was a man of great faith.
 - People turned to him in times of need.
"The wife of a man from the company of prophets cried out to Elisha." - 2 Kings 4:1
 - He saw beyond the problem to God's power.
"Elisha said, 'Go around and ask all your neighbours for empty jars. Don't ask for just a few.'" - 2 Kings 4:3
 - He was not surprised by God's provision.
"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.'" - 2 Kings 4:7

What Do We Learn About God?

1. His power is limitless, and more than enough to meet our needs.
"And my God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus." - Philippians 4:19
2. He often uses what we already have to meet our needs.
"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 little oil." - 2 Kings 4:2
3. He does not waste His blessings, and He will bless us according to our faith.
"Elisha said, 'Go around and ask all your neighbours for empty jars. 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." - 2 Kings 4:3,6
4. He expects us to be obedient and participate in the work when He provides the blessing.
"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.'" - 2 Kings 4:7
5. He knows our deepest need and longs to accomplish something greater in our lives.
"...and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us." - Ephesians 3:19,20

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