

# Pour Out Your Jar!

## 2 Kings 4:1-7

Today's Question: How can I live a life of true and lasting significance?

### 2 Kins 4:1-7 (NKJV); Elisha and the Widow's Oil

<sup>4</sup> 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."

<sup>2</sup> 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."

<sup>3</sup> Then he said, "Go, borrow vessels from everywhere, from all your neighbors—empty vessels; do not gather just a few. <sup>4</sup> 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."

<sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> 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."

### *Pour Out Your Jar—8 Realities*

1. **C \_\_\_\_\_ -Don't let your present circumstances dictate your future destiny** (v. 1).

Scripture Insight: In the ancient world, financial indebtedness often led to slavery (cf. [Neh 5:5](#); [Amos 2:6](#)). While the Mosaic covenant allowed for service to pay a debt, a time limit was set when the servant would be set free ([Exod 21:2](#)). A guardian-redeemer could pay the debt in order to free the relative ([Lev 25:25](#)), but this widow had no hope of such deliverance. By providing for the woman, Elisha showed compassion to the dependents of the deceased prophet.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Quote from NIV Biblical Theology Study Bible.

2. **R\_\_\_\_\_** -Everyone needs someone who can lift you up when you are down (v. 1-2).
3. **R\_\_\_\_\_** -God has given you a treasure *inside* of you that is meant to get *outside* of you (v. 2-4).

**Scripture Insight:** The small flask held olive oil intended for anointing, rather than food or fuel. Such a small flask was not very valuable.<sup>2</sup>

#### 6 Resources that are in your house:

- 1) **Time**-We all get 24 hours in a day, 7 days in a week, 365 days in a year. What are you doing with your time?
- 2) **Talents & Skills**-A talent is a natural ability or aptitude for doing something. A skill is something you have learned to do through practice, learning, and effort.
- 3) **Spiritual Gifts**-Every believer has at least one spiritual gift. Your spiritual gifts are given to you by God so that you can build up the Body of Christ.
- 4) **Relationships**-What relationships have you developed over your lifetime? How are you pouring out your life into these people?
- 5) **Prayer**-Prayer is one of the most powerful resources that you can employ to make an immediate difference in the lives of others. Are you pouring out your "prayer jar?"
- 6) **Love**-Love is the chief of all Christian virtues. Love opens up the hearts of others so that you can plant Gospel seeds through your relationships.

4. **R\_\_\_\_\_** -You have a divine mandate to pour out your oil into the empty jars around you (v. 3-4).
  - Notice the instructions that the lady is given by Elisha:
    - i. **Go**-you can accomplish anything by staying and doing nothing about your problem.
    - ii. **Borrow vessels** from *everywhere*-what God calls you to do, you will need help from others. This lady would not have witnessed this miracle without the help of others. Teamwork makes the dreamwork!
    - iii. From all your **neighbors**-Begin gathering vessels from the people around you.

<sup>2</sup> Quote from NKJV Study Bible.

iv. What kind of vessels—*empty vessels*.

2 Corinthians 4:7-9; <sup>7</sup> But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. <sup>8</sup> *We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; <sup>9</sup> persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed—*

- Oil is a symbol of the Holy Spirit in the Bible.

5. **D\_\_\_\_\_ -Private devotion always comes before public demonstration** (v. 4-5).

- After you have gathered all the empty vessels from your neighbors, you are to shut the door behind you and your sons...
- Then and only then are you to pour out the oil into all those empty vessels.
- Shut the door—why?
  - Shut the door-Shut out the negative naysayers because you need to believe and not have anyone fester doubt.
  - Shut the door-Shut out the distractions because you are going to need to really focus on what I am about to do!
  - Shut the door-Shut out anything that would interrupt the flow of pouring out your oil...

Matthew 6:6 (NIV); But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

6. **P\_\_\_\_\_ -As long as you keep pouring, the oil will keep flowing** (v. 5-6).

- Notice that as long as the lady kept pouring, the oil kept flowing!
- Ministry is all about God pouring into you so that you can pour back into the lives of others.

7. **P\_\_\_\_\_ -Don't limit what God can do through you by the number of jars around you** (v. 6).

- When did the oil stop flowing? When the lady ran out of empty vessels.
- Don't limit the flow of God's favor in your life by your lack of capacity.

### 6 Ways We Limit Our Potential:

- 1) We \_\_\_\_\_ way too small.
- 2) We \_\_\_\_\_ way too little.
- 3) We limit our future by our limited \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) We limit our potential by getting \_\_\_\_\_ by the potential of others.
- 5) We stop asking God to do \_\_\_\_\_ things in our lives.
- 6) We stay too \_\_\_\_\_ to pour into others.

8. **L\_\_\_\_\_ -You can experience true life only after you have poured out your life** (v. 7).

**Christ Connection:** Jesus is the one who gives you the Holy Spirit who is the Oil that lights up your life for the glory of God!

**Today's Big Idea (A short summary):** Pour out your jar into the empty jars around you!

**Action Steps: Practical ways to pour out my jar:**

1. **Mentor someone**—who has God placed in your life that you could disciple?
2. **Serve the needy**—is there someone in your life that has a need that you could meet today?
3. **Join a Serve Team**—is there a ministry at Arden First that you could make a difference in by pouring your jar of talents into the life of this church?

**Preview for Next Sunday:**

**"The Fox, The Mother Hen, and the Chicks"** from Luke 13:31-35