

LWML Texas District

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Meditation

Widow's Oil

Now the wife of one of the sons of the prophets cried to Elisha, "Your servant my husband is dead, and you know that your servant feared the LORD, but the creditor has come to take my two children to be his slaves." And Elisha said to her, "What shall I do for you? Tell me; what have you in the house?" And she said, "Your servant has nothing in the house except a jar of oil." Then he said, "Go outside, borrow vessels from all your neighbors, empty vessels and not too few. Then go in and shut the door behind yourself and your sons and pour into all these vessels. And when one is full, set it aside." So she went from him and shut the door behind herself and her sons. And as she poured they brought the vessels to her. When the vessels were full, she said to her son, "Bring me another vessel." And he said to her, "There is not another." Then the oil stopped flowing. She came and told the man of God, and he said, "Go, sell the oil and pay your debts, and you and your sons can live on the rest." (2 Kings 4:1–7).

God blesses a faithful widow through His prophet Elisha during a difficult time for prophets and their families in the kingdom of Israel. There are many things we can learn from this passage about faith, obedience, and prayer. First, oil has a strong connection to the power of God throughout the Bible. It was used to anoint priests (Exodus 28:41) and kings (1 Samuel 10:1).

Sometimes oil is viewed as an outpouring of the Holy Spirit, setting those anointed apart for a holy purpose. *But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light* (1 Peter 2:9). As Christians, we are anointed, chosen, and gifted with the Holy Spirit today.

The widow was also faithful to the task given her. As bizarre as it may have sounded, the widow essentially asked her neighbors for their trash. In being obedient to God through her actions, God blessed her. The widow is told to go to her home and close the door to do this work, it was something to be done in private.

We could relate this to our prayer life. Jesus, Himself, tells us, *"And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you"* (Matthew 6:5–6).

How about you? What are you inquiring of the Lord? How is He speaking to you? Have you been asked to do something a little bizarre or uncomfortable? It was probably quite terrifying for this widow to know her sons would be sold into slavery if she didn't find a way to pay her debts.

Then it was humbling to ask her neighbors for empty pots. She didn't scoff at what Elisha told her to do. She did it faithfully and privately. She followed God's Word given to her by the prophet Elisha, and was able to protect her sons and provide for her family.

How is God using His Word right now to protect and provide for your family? What truth is He guiding you to in order that you may show your faithfulness to Him and the calling He has put on your life?

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