

***Please have a Bible ready and read the verses from 2 Kings 4 as noted in the sermon*

Two Desperate Mothers and a Prophet Named Elisha

2 Kings 4:1-37

Please open your Bible to the Old Testament book of 2 Kings. I am reading today from chapter four: 2 Kings 4 beginning at verse one.

I am speaking today on the subject: *Two Desperate Mothers and a Prophet Named Elisha.*

As we shall see from our reading today, there are seasons of blessings in life and there are seasons of trial and sometimes unexpected trials. Both mothers in our reading today faced trials, but in the midst of trial they both understood help only comes from the Lord.

Like King David they could say, *“Be not far from me; for trouble is near; for there is none to help.”* And at the end of their trial they could say, *“The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoices; and with my song will I praise him.”*

Ladies, life is such that you will pray more than once *“Make haste to help me, O Lord my salvation.”* And most of you already know from experience the Lord is a present help in the time of trouble so that you can say, *“Because thou hast been my help, therefore in the shadow of thy wings will I rejoice.”* Now may the Lord stir our faith afresh as we turn our attention to His word. 2 Kings 4:1-7 . . .

Now let's meditate upon this situation. In verse one we discover a wife has lost her husband who himself feared the Lord and evidently served along side Elisha in

the ministry himself. Elisha certainly knew him and knew his testimony for the Lord. As time past this dear man died and left his wife and two sons on their own.

Unfortunately, the family found themselves in debt and now with the husband and father gone creditors came to take the only asset available to them—namely her two boys.

How many of you know when trouble comes God is still on the throne? This mother is faced with a great trial. Her heart is troubled at the thought of her two boys going into servitude for an extended period of time. Already bereaved of her husband soon her boys would be gone as well.

So, she cries out to Elisha. She makes him fully aware of her situation with the hope he can help her. As Elisha listens to her plight he first makes it plain that he cannot help her. He says, *“What shall I do for thee, or how can I help thee?”*

Like Peter in the New Testament who said to the lame man, *“Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.”* So, Elisha cannot help this mother by his own means, but he knows the Lord will help her. So he says, *“Tell me, what do you have in the house?”*

As we see from the text, the only thing she had in the house was a pot of oil. As soon as Elisha became aware of the pot of oil, the Lord quickened to his heart the answer. What confidence the prophet had in the Lord! He proceeded to tell this mother to borrow as many vessels as possible from her neighbors and once in possession of those vessels she was to shut herself and her boys in the house.

Elisha then instructed her to take the pot of oil and pour from it into each vessel. Once one was full, they were to set it aside and take another and fill it. They were to continue this way until all the vessels were full.

The Bible says, *“so she went from him,”* and she obeyed Elisha. Now I trust you see the faith of this dear mother. As she moved about the neighborhood

borrowing vessels, she is embracing the word of the Lord from the prophet. She is moving in faith. She is trusting the Lord for the miracle Elisha is clearly speaking of.

Once in the house with her boys I believe they had quite the church service! She started pouring from her pot into a vessel perhaps two or three times the size of her pot, but as she poured the oil kept coming. She topped that one off and had one son move that one aside as her other boy put the next vessel in front of her. She began to pour again, and the oil kept flowing until that vessel was also filled.

About right there I think some excitement was building in the house. Mom had to say, "*Boys, look what the Lord is doing,*" as she kept filling those vessels. Finally, mom said, "bring me another vessel." But her son said, "mom, that was the last one." I mean, she was ready to keep pouring!

Now let me remind you of something. This miracle illustrates to us the limitless supply of the living God. We can exhaust our resources, but we can never exhaust His! When he supplies our needs according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus there is as much remaining as when he first started. There will never be a run on the bank of heaven because His riches can never be depleted!

Now look again at verse seven . . . God's provision paid her debt and the remainder was enough for them to live on.

Do you know something? God's provision has also paid my debt. The debt I owed left me in bondage to sin and death. I was destined to eternal servitude facing a debt I could not pay, until God opened a fountain that still flows from a hill called Calvary. My friend, the work of Christ upon the cross is sufficient to pay all our sin debt and set us free!

Do you know something else? Not only is God's provision enough to pay my sin debt, but I live on the rest of it. Christ is my Savior, but Christ is also my life!

Now let's read about the second mom who came to Elisha in desperation. Look with me at verse eight: (Read 4:8-37 . . .).

Conclusion

The Lord placed the record of these miracles in His word to glorify His name and to build our faith. I do not know what you may face in this life, but I know this: the Lord is the only real help you can turn to. Always turn to him in your desperation. He will show you the way. He will sustain you. He will gird you with strength. His provision will be enough.