

Empty Vessels

It came to pass that in the time of The Prophet Elisha a poor woman whose husband had died without paying back a debt that he owed a creditor (2 Kings 4). This creditor had approached the widow and asked her to pay off her husband's debt otherwise he would take both her sons as slaves. She cried out to Elisha, asking for his assistance. He replied: how can I do for you? Tell me, what do you have in your house? Nothing except a little bit of oil, she replied. He told to her to go, and borrow empty vessels from everywhere, from all her neighbors, and not to gather just a few. And to go inside with her sons and shut the door, then to pour out the oil into these vessels.

Then, an amazing miracle took place: the small amount of oil became a fountain that did not stop flowing till she filled all the jars. When she asked one of her sons to bring another pot, he told her that he couldn't find any more pots, so the fountain of oil stopped.

She went to Elisha, the man of God, and informed him about what had happened. He asked her to go and sell the oil and use the money to pay off her debt and to use the remaining sum to live off it with her sons.

This is the story of everyone who becomes impoverished in his spiritual life, and who has become under the dominion of the Enemy of God. Then, he cries out to God because the Enemy of God is trying to rob his talents and resources (his children) and to exploit them to his own advantage. What does God do for those who take refuge in Him?

1. First, Elisha the Prophet told her: I want something from you to start with then build upon. Man must offer something, even a very small effort to which God adds His power and blessing.

2. **The Oil is the work of the Holy Spirit** that never leaves the Christian regardless of what happens. We may think it is little, weak, or without effect like the woman that underestimated the little quantity of oil that she had. However, the real source for the richness and fullness of the Children of God is in fact the Holy Spirit. It is the fountain that quenches our thirst and makes us rich as soon as we give Him the opportunity to do so. It is for this fact that Elisha asked the woman to gather many vessels, and not to gather just a few, to give a chance to the Holy Spirit to pour out.

To dedicate a large part of the heart and empty it from worldly concerns.

To consecrate time for prayer, praise, and quenching the thirst by the divine word after she closes the door. So the Spirit would be poured out without a limit! *"For God gives the Spirit without limit."* (John 3:34)

3. **The stopping of the pouring oil is contingent upon running out of pots.** The problem is not with the ever-pouring flow of the Spirit; the problem is in our receptiveness and our readiness with a clean heart that is eager and longs for the work of grace.

"Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it". (Psalm 81:10)

"I opened my mouth and drew in my breath" (Psalm 119:131)

The problem with the modern world is that it does not care whether it has enough pots prepared for the work of the spirit

There is no time for the Bible.

There is no effort for standing to pray.

There is no desire for strife in order to be filled with the Spirit.

There are no vessels, so how do we expect richness and fullness.

4. **Let's remember that the work of the Spirit in our hearts is the source of all richness and fullness.** Let us also remember that the more we give a chance to the Spirit, the more He gives us fullness, quenches our thirst, and make us so rich that we would give others as well.



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