

## 2 Kings 4:1-7

### The Vision based on Acts 2

1. Maturing in the Word
2. Meaningful Fellowship
3. Making Supplication
4. Ministry in the Body
5. Magnifying God
6. Miracles Performed

Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles.

1. Not a lot of awe in our churches...in our lives
2. Not much wonder and few if any legitimate God glorifying signs.
3. We could use some miracles!
4. I am not talking about a faith healing service...I am not talking about finding a self-proclaimed miracle worker...I am talking about being the miracle.
5. Putting ourselves in a place where we can possibly *see God do tangible, clear, awe-inspiring, wonders in us, through us, and for us for His glory.*

There are at least 3 things that we need to grasp if we are going to step out in faith and seek to be a miracle. These three things are evident in the story we find in 2 Kings 4 this morning.

### READ/PRAY

I want us to see 3 truths in this story that make no sense to the normal human mind, but three truths that must be believed and acted on if we are going to *see God do tangible, clear, awe inspiring wonders in us, through us and for His glory.*

#### **I. Little is Much**                      **v1-2**

##### A. This poor widow, had very very little

1. Her husband was a preacher in a time of apathy, complacency and unconcern
2. He probably struggled to provide the bare necessities for his family
3. He had to buy much of what they needed to survive on credit and died without a life insurance policy
4. Upon his death, the creditors came calling
  - a. She lost everything to the creditors and still fell short
  - b. All that she had left was a jar of oil and a debt she could not pay

##### B. All she had was a jar of oil. Why oil?

1. It is likely that she kept this jar of oil for her burial
2. Oil was used to anoint the body of Hebrews for burial
3. All this lady had left was a measly jar of oil to be buried with

- C. Just a little is all she had to offer.
  - 1. But Elisha knew something that she did not know
  - 2. Little is much when God is in it.
  
- D. That is something that we need to be reminded of
  - 1. So many of us feel like we can't do much for God because we don't believe we have much to offer.
  - 2. Stop looking at man's economy and start looking at God's economy,
    - a. John 6:5-13
    - b. Take what you have, let God bless it, do it to the best of your ability
  - 3. A shepherd boy, a simple sling, and one small stone killed a giant,
    - a. The problem is not a lack of stones
    - b. The problem is not that our stones are too small.
    - c. The problem is we refuse to sling the stones we have.
  
- E. All she had was a little, but she fully surrendered it to the hand of the Lord
  
- F. Take whatever you have and give it all to Him!

## II. Empty is Full      v3-4

- A. Another thing that doesn't make sense: empty is full.
  - 1. Elisha tells her to go find as many empty vessels as she can gather
  - 2. Then take them home, hide, and pour the full jar into the empty vessels
  - 3. The oil would only cease to flow when there was no vessel to receive it.
  - 4. The oil would be always flowing, and yet always full as long as there was an empty vessel available
    - a. How could this be?
    - b. Because in God's economy, empty is full.
  
- B. If we are to be used, we must be empty.
  - 1. We must be emptied of ourselves for God to fill us.
  - 2. Throughout history God has had to reveal over and over again the importance of emptiness before Him
  
- C. No story illustrates this truth more than the story of Gideon in Judges 7
  - 1. 32,000-the frightened = 10,000
  - 2. 10,000-those who knelt = 300
  - 3. Trumpets, torches, and empty jars
  - 4. A trumpet blast, a broken jar, and a shout = defeat of the Midianites
    - a. He had an empty army
    - b. He had empty pitchers
    - c. But empty is really full in God's economy

D. We must be empty if God is going to use us

1. Whatever, wherever, whenever and however, here I am, emptied of all of me, yet full of all of You... THE BLANK CHECK
2. While there is an empty, longing heart, there is a continual overflow.
3. *If we find in any place or at any time that the oil ceases to flow, it is because there are no empty vessels there.*

E. Empty is Full

### III. Faith Works v5-6

A. A third thing that makes no sense is that faith works

1. She has faith enough in what the prophet says, that she puts her faith to work
2. *She doesn't just share the news that if she does this, God will do that*
3. *She doesn't just claim to believe the Word of God, She takes action!*
4. She exercises obedience in faith that the prophet's word is true

B. True faith works

1. I thought faith was the opposite of works...
2. But no... true faith works
3. James 2:17-18 *faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.*
4. James 2:26 *For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.*

C. The way to increase what we have is to use it in faith

1. Matt 25:14-28 (24-28)
  - a. He may have known about his master
  - b. He might have claimed to believe this about his master
  - c. But he didn't really believe it or he would have done something about it
2. It is not hoarding the talents, but trading with them, that doubles them: faith working.
3. It is not saving them up for a rainy day that gets God's attention, it is pouring them out in faith.

D. Heb 11:6 *But without faith it is impossible to please Him*

1. How much have we done without faith?
2. When was the last time we attempted something so big that only God could do it?
3. What have we done that is really pleasing to God?
4. What real step of faith have we taken?

E. Matthew 14:22-33

## **Conclusion:**

That oil was poured out by the widow.

1. not by Elisha.
2. not by any of the sons of the prophets
3. and not even by her sons

It was her personal responsibility to take a step of faith.

1. God is waiting on one church, one family, one person to stop thinking little and start dreaming big knowing that with God, little is much.
2. He's waiting on one church, one family, one person to empty itself of every agenda, desire, and opinion so that He can fill it to overflowing with his presence and power
3. He's waiting on one church, family, person to have a faith that will stop talking about it and start working. A faith that will *attempt Great things for God and expect great things from God for His glory.*
  - a. He's waiting on one church that is willing to defy reason, logic, and common sense and step from the natural into the supernatural. Will this be the one?
  - b. He's waiting on one family that is willing to defy reason, logic, and common sense and step from the natural into the supernatural. Will your's be the one?
  - c. He's waiting on one person that is willing to defy reason, logic, and common sense and step from the natural into the supernatural. Will you be the one?

Let us take the necessary risks to ***see God do tangible, clear, awe-inspiring, wonders in us, through us, and for us for His glory.***