

**THE MOTHER WHO STRUCK OIL AT HOME**

2 Kings 4:1-7

## INTRODUCTION

- A. LE 25:39-46. These are the instructions that God had given about debt. The Jews of Elisha's day were not showing mercy to one another or obeying these OT laws.
- B. EX 4:2. God takes what we have and uses it to meet the need, IF we trust Him.
- C. "Shut the door" – 2 KI 4:4, 5, 21, 33. Reminds us of MT 6:6. Elisha often "shut the door" when asking for God's help.
- D. PH 4:19.

## DISCUSSION

- I. MOTHERS AND THEIR MANY RESPONSIBILITIES.
  - A. Who can number all the responsibilities of a mother?
    - 1. Mothers are equipped by God for this task.
    - 2. Motherhood was the first command of God to Eve.
  - B. But in our text we have an "added responsibility."
    - 1. Widowhood – the increased load when the husband is gone. Her sons would be her stay and support in her widowhood but now they must work for another.
    - 2. This is the case in our text.
- II. THIS MOTHER KNEW WHERE TO GO IN THE TIME OF NEED – VERSE 1.
  - A. Her husband. Wife of one of the sons of the prophets. The husband must have been a man of faith. Served under Elisha. Must have been fearless. He didn't have any money. Must have been hard working. He died young. This had come upon her suddenly.
  - B. The problems: Death and Debts. The two great burdens of life. The creditor comes to foreclose on the boys to be bondman. EX 21:7; IS 50:1; MT 18:25. Note that Elisha did not denigrate the creditor for acting within his rights according to the law, but provided the way for the widow to honor her obligations. We must be Christians in business as well as in all others areas of life.
  - C. The widow (mother) went quickly to seek the wisdom and help of God. God is the widow's helper. Blessed is the mother (Christian) who knows where to go when the family is in need. God knows what we need. God is just.
  - D. The widow seeks Elisha. Man the helper of man. Man blessed that he may become a blessing.
- III. THIS MOTHER FOUND THE ANSWER TO HER NEED WAS RIGHT AT HOME –VERSES 2- 4.
  - A. Elisha considering her problem: "What shall I do for thee?"
  - B. Elisha searching question: "What hast thou in the house?"
    - 1. A good question for all mothers today.
    - 2. A husband who loves you? Food enough for today?
    - 3. Money for this week's provisions.
    - 4. This mother had none of these things.
  - C. The negative answer: "Thine handmaid hath not any thing in the house..."
    - 1. Mothers and others with this attitude are miserable.
    - 2. "Others get new things. I am deprived. Poor me!"
  - D. The startling discovery "...save a pot of oil." This was a positive move.
    - 1. Literally "an anointing of oil."
    - 2. This was the turning point.
    - 3. How long has it been since you counted your blessings?
    - 4. Rediscovering the house, the family, the furniture, love, etc.
  - E. The answer for lifting your burden may be right at home.

- IV. THIS MOTHER FOUND THAT THE POSSIBILITIES ARE UNLIMITED WHEN YOU ALLOW GOD TO USE WHAT YOU HAVE – VERSES 4-7.
- A. Heeding the message of Elisha in faith.
  - B. Involving her sons in the act of faith.
    - 1. Sent them borrowing.
    - 2. Thinking big! “Borrow not a few.”
    - 3. Expecting the answer.
  - C. The closed doors. The thrilling moment.
    - 1. God took what she had and multiplied it.
    - 2. Filling all the borrowed vessels.
  - D. What God will do with what you have?
    - 1. A boy’s lunch. JN 6:5-13.
    - 2. Moses’ rod. EX 4:2-17.
    - 3. David’s sling. 1 SA 17:40, 50.
  - E. God keeps giving Himself as long as we bring that into which He can give.
    - 1. We must have a desire to be. Example: I want to be wise – I must desire instructions, etc.
    - 2. We must believe that we will receive (expectancy – have faith).
    - 3. We must be obedient. JN 7:17; HE 13:20, 21.

#### CONCLUSION

- A. Whatever you have is enough for God to use.
- B. What hast thou in the house?
- C. Our God has boundless resources. The only limit is in us. Our asking, our thinking, our praying are too small. Our expectations are too limited.
- D. God filled as many vessels as the widow had faith to bring, and those who loaned her the vessels must have benefited too. PH 4:19.