

# Use What You Have!

## 2 Kings 4:1-7

These notes are about stewardship. Stewardship is in regards to how you conduct your affairs; how well are you managing the affairs that God has blessed you with? Prayerfully this sermon will assist you in becoming the best steward over all that you have.

In 2 Kings 4, you read about a widow who's husband passed away and has now left her in debt. In this day in time there were no bill collectors calling and harassing you to make payment but instead they sought to enslave her sons in order to pay the debt that was owed. Her husband was a servant of Elisha meaning he was a man of God. He instilled in his family to lean on and rely on God so she knew exactly who to go to in her time of need. Her husband had sown into good ground and though he left his family in debt he led them to the source who could provide debt cancellation. There is no way you can sow into good ground and come up empty. In your time of need you need to position yourself in a manner that will allow God to come in and provide you with what is needed. She didn't run to family or friends. She didn't seek the counsel of random people in the town as you might do by going to social media. She sought counsel from the man of God. Elisha being a prophet was God's mouth piece. He only spoke what was told to him by God. When you seek godly counsel you will be in a position where God can make you better. You being better is crucial to the success of those your life touches. You being better makes the person next to you better. Just as this widow's husband has done for his family.

## You Don't Have To Impress People

God wants you to use what He has given you. You are the best you that God has ever made. You don't have to impress people when you are being the best you. You and God together are already impressive. God has designed you to leave a lasting mark on those around you. You have the power available to affect people in a positive way. You are not running in a marathon competing against other people. No! Your race is more of a jog so to speak. You are running against yourself only. Your race is to be the very best version of yourself that God has created you to be. God desires that you reach your full potential. Steward yourself!

## Be Specific!

The widow's sons freedom was in jeopardy and her husband's legacy lead her to someone who could help. Be specific when you go to God. Let Him know what you want Him to do for you. In verse 2 Elisha said tell me what you have in your house. In other words what do you have that has value. Her response initially was nothing. You may believe you have nothing to offer God. You may believe you don't have what it takes to fulfill the call on your life. Yes, you have a call. We all have a part to play in this journey called life. We all have been called to glorify God in our neck of the woods. She responded in the way you often do because you feel what you have to offer is insignificant. What are you looking over? What have you been told by people that you are good at, what have you been told is a treasured quality or talent but you believe is insignificant? God is going to use what you have to make a significant mark in the lives of others. You don't need to be taller, more educated or even have longer hair. He has given you all you need. Be specific when you go to God and let Him know what you have a heart for and ask Him to multiply it.

## A Predicament

Now the widow found herself in a predicament. She was in a situation that was not her fault. Some of the trauma you have experienced in life was not the result of your own doing but you made it through. Without the experience of the trauma you would not be who you are today. Without that experience you could not receive the miracle of God like the widow in the scripture. Through pain God has access to heal you. Yes, there are experiences and things you wish you could un-know but you made it through it. Wishing you hadn't experienced doesn't change that you actually went through it. Matter of fact there is no wishing in the Bible. Wishing leaves you with perpetual looping thoughts of shoulda coulda woulda and leaves you meditating on how life could of been had you not gone through the experience. You can't wish it away! God instead says "Bring it to Me, I want to use it!" The pain left a scar but God will use your wound to heal others.

## Faith Determines Your Blessing

Her faith in God led her to the man who had the access to her answer. Not only did she believe that God could solve her problem but she believed God would

provide the answer through Elisha. Like Elisha, Jesus is your go between because you believe God sent His only son to die in your place; you can go to Him to get the answers you need. Just as Elisha gave the widow specific instructions God will have specific instructions for you. Your answer is available if you follow the instructions God gives you. Those instructions may seem odd to some. Hey, to others it just doesn't add up but your faith or belief in what God told you to do will determine your blessing. God can use the little you have to bless you. Dream BIG! Open your mind to the Word and it tells you what is impossible with man is possible with God. (See Luke 18:27). Faith in this scripture will open the gate to blessings for you and your descendants that follow. You are talented and stop arguing with God!

## Isolation

In your relationship with Jesus you shouldn't share everything with just anyone. God tells us discretion is important. (See Titus 2:5) God wants you to love openly but often time will bless you privately. You may feel isolated and alone but you are not. God is using the isolation to develop you. He is with you but often times He will get you alone and away from the things that will distract. He doesn't want the influence of outside voices to impact or stunt your development. You are not a statistic, you are a person and God is not limited by what people have said or may say. He wants you to get your eyes off people and get you alone with Him to multiply the talent He has placed inside of you. Behind closed doors privately He will prepare you and then once He has developed you He will display you publicly. Learn to accept where you are and enjoy the preparation process. During this stage of preparation is where you become powerful. In this stage you will be established and your no will be no and your yes will be yes. You will no longer be drawn to the ungodly. Stay faithful no matter the circumstances and when you do doors will begin to open. God will do it! His name is on the line. The hell you have gone through will allow you to go back in and get the next person out. God doesn't waste His resources; He wants you to reach your full capacity. Ask God what steps you need to take to improve yourself.

## The Oil

As you read the Prophet told her what to do and she obeyed. God blessed her with what she needed when her faith lead her to be obedient. He not only supplied her with what she needed but much more. So much so that she was

able to pay off her debt and live on the remaining oil. Oil in the Bible often represents God's anointing on a person. The oil always supplies grace or gives the person supernatural ability to do what God has told them to do. God doesn't just want you to live life just barely getting by. NO! He wants the oil to flow in your life so like in John 10, you can experience a life of abundance. Ask God what to do and how to do it and with child like faith obey Him. Seek God, follow Him and He will help you reach your full capacity.

Use what you have! Let God do the rest! Go get your miracle!