

The Holy Anointing Oil Empowerment

Consider these frightening financial facts: by 65 years old, 45% of that population will be dependent on relatives, 30% will be dependent on charity, 23% will be still working and 2% will be financially independent. The incomes of doctors, lawyers and most professionals will hit a high by the time they reach between 47 and 48 years old and plunge rapidly after age 54. By age 65, 11 out of 12 women will become widows, 80% of all Americans will owe more than they own and 20% of your income will be used for consumer debt repayment. (Phillip Lowe, Certified Financial Planner).

How can you ensure that your story turns out more Biblically Positive? 2 Kings 4:1-7 carries a story which might give you some needed inspiration.

Now the wife of one of the sons of the prophets cried to Eli'sha, "Your servant my husband is dead; and you know that your servant feared the LORD, but the creditor has come to take my two children to be his slaves." ² And Eli'sha said to her, "What shall I do for you? Tell me; what have you in the house?" And she said, "Your maidservant has nothing in the house, except a jar of oil." vv.1-2 RSV.



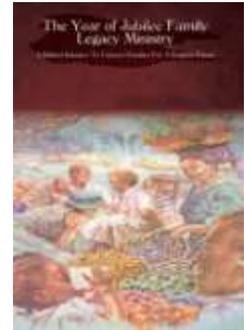
Coupled with the sorrow and grief of the recent death of her husband Obadiah, this widow woman is now faced with a financial dilemma which could alter her entire lifestyle. Her husband was an understudy of the local prophet, Elisha as well as a possible political figure in ancient Samaria. Textually, she went to get help from the man of God, possibly her pastor, "*the local prophet*" Elisha.

In addition, the widow was very concerned about the debt her husband had left behind because it placed the future of her sons in jeopardy. "Jewish law allowed the creditor to indenture the sons of Obadiah for six years each, so undoubtedly the smug official marched down to the courthouse, this time to file notice of intent to indenture."

When she received the possible registered letter containing the bad news, Obadiah's widow almost lost it! The toll of this experience seemed unending. She started to lose sleep, became irritable and withdrawn. Her appearance showed evidence of domestic stress and strain. Her hair was not tidy, she began to lose weight. Neighbors started a rumor mill. Her predicament became the talk in the beauty salon and in other key venues surrounding Samaria. Just when she

would have reached rock bottom, she reached out for counseling and help, she came to Prophet Elisha. Let's say to continue the analogy of keeping her family together, she owed a large amount possibly around \$50,000.00 in US Dollars plus the funeral bills and probably more in today's debt amount.

"Sister Obadiah, 'Elisha may have said, 'you've got a great need.' 'Owning all that money. . . no job. . . your welfare cut off. . . the threat of losing your sons, you are in a great jam'." Elisha's words were a classic understatement. The only help he could direct her faith was where loss was apparent, her house. The insight of Elisha led him to work with what was in the house.



"Well, the prophet asked her, 'what shall I do for thee?, tell me, what do you have in the house?', 'Nothing, she replied woefully ... *'except ... a pot of oil.'* I looked up the Hebrew word for *pot*, and the true meaning here is *flask*, or an *alabaster box*. The word for Oil *shemen* means *grease, espec. liquid (as from the olive, often perfumed)*; a figure for - *richness*. . . 'It has multiple uses. It can do more than one thing, it can be used in more than one area. You can use it as fuel for light, cook with it, use it as medicine, consecrate/anoint/worship with it and even barter or use it as a medium of exchange. Then he (Elisha) said, "*Go borrow thee vessels abroad of all thy neighbors, even empty vessels; borrow not a few*" 2 Kings 4:3.

Sister Obadiah's reply, "*except a pot of oil*" bears some additional emphasis here. While there is a great degree of hopelessness apparent in her assessment, the evidence of an "*except*" is key to her turnaround. When one can remember what may seem to be so trivial, that "*except*" may be an inherent factor for a miracle. In a real sense God leaves just enough for the possibility of a miracle in that pot of oil. I hasten to have you not overlook what God has left to usher you into the marvelous regions of a miracle. What may appear to be insignificant, if not overlooked, could very well be what God has left for your storied experience to find a redeeming end.

That '*except*', when viewed through the lens of Psalm 45:8 could very well cover the greatest '*except clause*' you and I could ever depend on, ^s*All thy garments smell of myrrh, and aloes, and cassia, out of the ivory palaces, whereby they have made thee glad* KJV. Great hope is in this text because of who it is referring to. This 45th Psalm is called a Prophetic Messianic Psalm. When defined under the "**principal or quality category**" of the **art of the Apothecary or perfumer**, two of these principal spices are noted to be mixed with Olive Oil,

that of Myrrh and Cassia. Such denotation was given by God to Moses in Exodus 30:22-26. Each of the prophetic spices enunciated communicates a holy and miraculous movement which highlights the Fragrance and Priesthood of Christ, Ex. 30:26-33. Note the private spiritual intimacy utilized by Pastor Elisha utilized when he asked the widow, ‘*What shall I do for thee?*’ as well as ‘*Go, borrow thee vessels abroad of all thy neighbors, even empty vessels; borrow not a few*’ and finally, ‘*Go, sell the oil, and pay thy debt, and live thou and thy children of the rest*’. One must categorically remember that these spiritual intimate admonitions are regarded as ‘*intimate incense*’ authorized under the authority of a priest or one serving as a priest to someone. Cassia in the Hebrew means *to bow down the head as the Hebrew unfolds a picture of surrender and prayer*. Cassia is a fragrance in the holy anointing oil criteria and our prayers in the Word are described as an incense. Reviewing Revelation 5:8, please note “... *the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints*” NIV. In the Old Testament, the Priesthood and their intercessory prayers for others was primary and done once per year. In the New Testament someone who may ask you, a non priest but believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, to pray for them, such



a person is really asking you to be priestly for them out of the sincerity of your heart. When you pray for others, that prayer is called intercession, it is a common ‘*for others*’ practice. Jesus taught this in Matthew 6:6-13.



Sister Obadiah and her sons went out and borrowed every vessel they could find with this spiritual constitution in place. Persons in the community were already talking about her and thought she was about to lose her mind. Now, here she comes asking to borrow some vessels. Notice Elisha's verse 3 word of revelational instruction did not tell her to borrow money. She needed money but she was also up to her neck in debt because of the creditor. Here he circumvents the direct request and use of money to remedy her situation. Elisha gives her a means of acquiring needed funds by tying this acquisition to a medium of exchange, the oil, for funds needed. To "borrow empty vessels" points to making a request with an intention to return. So, the borrowing of empty vessels could be an act of marketing a miracle. How the vessels would be returned becomes the miracle of the request. The empty vessels were containers fit to be filled. Here we have an unusual request and an equally unusual set of circumstances dictating the fascinations of the return. Through this divine act of transforming counsel, Elisha was teaching development skills to Sister Obadiah and her two sons. The adage of "using

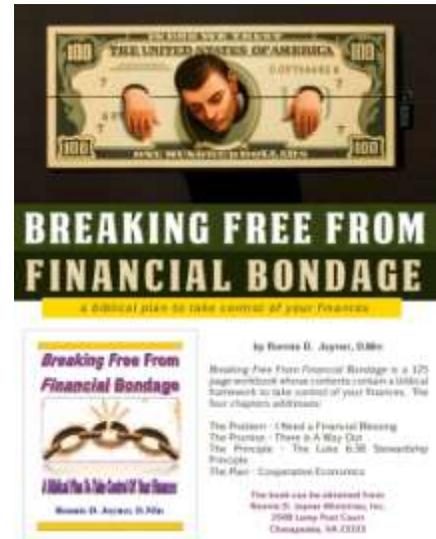
what you got to get what you need” is operative here.

When circumstances have become so distasteful, when hope of a brighter day have fallen prey to the ignited flames of death and living debt, look for what God leaves for you in the “*except*” categories of life. Don't give up until there is an “*except*” which can be used to provide an exit out of the possible indenturing prisons of life.

One way of redeeming your pot, pan or bowl when we had pot luck dinners was to write our name on a strip of paper tape and place it on the bottom of the loaned item. Sister Obadiah possibly taped the names of the vessel owner on the bottom of each vessel so they would be easily returnable. This stirred conversation throughout the community. Some may have asked, “Has Sister Obadiah or her sons been by your house? Did you let her borrow one of your vessels?” In few cases the answer was no, in many others, the answer was yes. I imagine that if she seriously took Elisha's admonishment to 'borrow not a few', not a few was their motivation to go from house to house. These empty vessels were to come from Sister Obadiah's neighbors. She probably had Obadiah I running over to the neighbors on the corner of Carnation Street and Dairy Farm Blvd. to get their spare cream cans and Obadiah II scurrying to the neighborhood Exxon Station to round up their empty oil buckets. Elisha knew something about her neighbors, he knew they could provide her with some empty vessels. He also knew that if she only asked, they could come up with some empty vessels. He did not tell her to ask them for money or vessels with something in them. The instruction were to ask for “*empty vessels*”.

I wonder, could the neighborhood have provided her with amount she needed or the real question, did they care enough or were they willing? What is the complaint of most cities today, they don't have enough to do all they want to do in the neighborhoods. To tax or not to tax is the question. To further burden the people in requesting more while the times have ushered in a spirit of indenturing is part of the quandary we are captured in.

What kind of neighborhood was it which had the heart to supply a struggling widow/single parent, grieving from the death of her husband and the forecast of darker days from the possible indenturing of her two sons, with vessels and



nothing in them? That was the request, *not a handout, just a hand. Could you Let me have an empty vessel?* God has outlined the means for filling the vessels. God has a way of ministering our deliverance in ways which help us to see Him as our source while our neighbors become our resources. Every community has some resources which can be tapped. Every household has some empty vessel which can be given to someone in need. Just making the request sends a message throughout the neighborhood. It also becomes a marketing tool used by God. How do you market a miracle? I think in this instance we have a good example.

Not only will Elisha help Sister Obadiah in this instance but he will help the entire neighborhood. He will use this woman and her sons through this dilemma to have the entire neighborhood view God as Provider. Isn't that a tremendous position to be in? Have you helped your neighborhood see God as Provider, as Blessor in recent days? Can you detect any circumstance of recent days which may be a sign that God is at work marketing our neighborhoods, communities and families for a miracle? Are there any dead fathers, husbands, widowed women, mothers, indentured sons or daughters in your home or community?



They hauled all the OPV's (Other People's Vessels) home and waited for the next instructions from the prophet, but this set of instruction called for a period of consecration. When God gives you something to do, sanctify it, set it apart for His use. In addition, this consecration was a worship experience at its best. When viewed, worship should be a productive theme during the time of debt cancellation. Why worry when you can worship? Worship moves the strain of worry away. Worship replaces the setting with the alternatives of God. Worship centers itself upon the core of your pain and moves one into the presence of the God. Such a movement is motivational and rekindles dashed hopes, dreams and aspirations, because God does not waste pain! Worship ministers to pain and restores inspiration as it helps one reach the place and presence of God. Worship points us there, where God is with a breakthrough.

Since Sister Obadiah's home and family was in jeopardy, Elisha tells them to go in the house, with all of the collected vessels for a miracle, and **worship there**. At the point of our need, we must be moved to worship in the place of jeopardy. When we do, God will pour relief into that setting, that

situation, *"And when thou art come in, thou shalt shut the door upon thee and upon thy sons, and shalt pour out into all those vessels, and thou shalt set aside that which is full. So she went from him, and shut the door upon her and upon her sons, who brought the vessels to her; and she poured out "* 2 Kings 4-5. "Do you wonder why Elisha told the widow to get alone with her sons before beginning to pour? Elisha knew that this *shut in* would be a private teacher for each of them. This meditation before God would produce a new focus, and a growing of their faith. Psalm 19:14 says, ¹⁴ *Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.* Redemption would be such a huge miracle that no one would believe it. No one, that is, except the widow, her sons and the neighbors.

This *"shut in"* or *"secret closet time"* was needed in order that a public note could be passed on to all who had released to Sister Obadiah and her sons the empty vessels *in private*. Secret closet time is private consecrated time with God, ⁶ *But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.* (Matt. 6:6) KJV. This family had to shut out the community while they shut in with God. Periodic secret closet time should be spent by all families. Especially when jeopardy is so apparent and when needs are so great. Don't wait for something to happen then *shut in*, but use the *shut in* as preparation for the best to happen!



"Can you imagine what it must have been like as the widow readied herself? " She followed the instructions, poured out from the limited supply into the emptiness of the empty vessels. How many times have you had only a little to work with while facing numerous needs? Debt places numerous needs before you but if you just pour out, payment by payment, into debt by debt, afterwhile something miraculous will have happened.

But the woman did break open the flask and did begin pouring. . . and pouring. . . and pouring. Eventually, every vessel in the house was filled to capacity! While she was pouring the oil out God was pouring into the oil His miraculous need meeting ability. He stretched the molecular structure of the oil to meet the needs her household was facing. God can turn our burdens into blessings. Whatever the oil you have let God get to work in it. What was the limit of her blessing? It was the number of vessels she had borrowed. *'And it came to pass, when the vessels were full, that she said unto her son, Bring me yet a vessel. And he said unto her, There is not a vessel more. And the oil stayed*

"2 Kings 4:6

The widow suddenly found herself in the midst of a tremendous, leveraged, little down windfall. She had been challenged to use her vessels and those of her neighbors to avoid poverty and the loss of her two sons, but she didn't know what to do with all that special miraculous Holy oil. *"Then she came and told the man of God. And he said, 'Go, sell the oil and pay thy debt, and live thou and thy children of the rest.'"* 2 Kings 4:7



Can you see her taking the vessels back to those she had borrowed them from? Verse 7 suggests that there was an *expectation* awaiting her upon arriving at each home. Many in the community knew what she was going through and how Elisha had helped her through these instructions, now after the door has been opened and the vessels returned, something overwhelming is happening. She borrowed empty vessels, but now the returned vessels are filled with Miraculous Oil. Elisha told her to *"Go, sell the oil and pay thy debt, and live thou and thy children of the rest!"* How do you sell Miraculous Oil? In a real since it sells itself. This oil of Sis. Obadiah provided a personal miracle in the midst of her personal misery. Donations are given by several neighbors. The financial turn-a-round for the widow's household was caused by the Hebrew word *tsahar* which means to make oil. Oil was made by pressing it out of the olive. **The word *shemen* or oil was thought of as a service providing fuel for light.** In Exodus 25:6, God had instructed Moses to *use oil for light with the main source of light coming from the oil and spices for anointing oil, and for sweet incense.* People began to talk about the oil in the same areas where they had talked about the depressing conditions of Sister Obadiah. They speak of the new life which has come to them and others want it as well. The oil sold itself. Associated with Prophet Elisha the word is all over the community that a tremendous blessing has come to Sister Obadiah and her sons and many wanted to celebrate with her, others wanted to purchase the oil for their own use. Good News found its way in the third spice, it is Aloe, which was placed along side the body of our Lord at his death. Myrrh, at his birth, Cassia, as He prays for us, and at Obadiah's death, the Good News He Provides, *'they have made us glad'*, Psalm 45:8. Additional oil is requested, she supplies it until it all runs out. At the close of this experience, her sons are with her, not indentured, not working off the debt of their deceased father, but home with their mother. All her debts are paid, which in \$50,000 in today's US market which is equal to 190,000 ILS in the Israeli economy, and she has

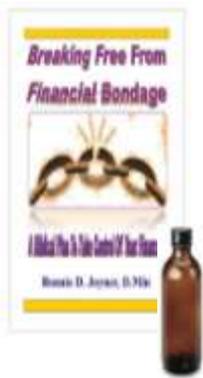
enough for all three of them to live on. If she earned her \$50,000 back, plus another \$50,000 from the sales, that equals \$100,000, she was at 365,070.11 in Israeli Money. If she has earned between \$100,000 and \$500,000, she is in the 1,825,350.57 ILS range. For v. 7 says, "Go, sell the oil and pay your debt; and you and thy children live of the rest." Here is a living miracle.

Seven verses ago this woman was desperate. But now she is living in some supernatural blessings. 2 Chronicles 20:20c says, "...Believe in the Lord your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper". Thank God that the same provision is available to us today. We can exit debt and enter new life. Debt will have us indenturing our families if we do not live with a godly sense for tomorrow. Debt was still alive after Obadiah's death and will be alive after yours and mine. Uncontrollable debt left unpaid may shackle the futures of our loved ones.

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Receive a copy of Breaking Free From Financial Bondage written by Pastor Joyner and a 4oz Bottle of the Psalm 45:8 Holy Anointing Oil which was Personally ~ Priestly Mixed by Pastor Joyner ~ *Myrrh, Aloe and Cassia*. Sow a \$50 Jubilee Seed in support of WHLQ and The Ronnie D. Joyner Ministries, Inc., a 501c3 Non-Profit. Will you, your church, your family, fraternity or sorority help us move at least 12 Breaking Free/Anointed Oil Packages and receive a base profit of 25% from each sale. Call us at 804 596-9457, email us at whlq1055FM@gmail.com, God Bless.