

“Elisha & The Widow’s Oil”

Intro: Elisha's 16 miracles:

1. Parted the waters of the Jordan River ([2 Kng 2:14](#))
2. Purification of the water source for Jericho ([2 Kng 2:18-22](#))
3. Protection of the prophet by two she-bears ([2 Kng 2:23-25](#))
4. Water for the army of Israel and success over the Moabites ([2 Kng 3:16-25](#))
5. **Providing the widow's oil** ([2 Kng 4:1-7](#))
6. Elisha's annunciation prophecy for the woman from Shunem ([2 Kng 4:8-17](#))
7. Resurrection of the son of the Shunammite woman ([2 Kng 4:18-37](#))
8. Purified the poison soup ([2 Kng 4:38-41](#))
9. Multiplication of loaves ([2 Kng 4:42-44](#))
10. Healing of Naaman ([2 Kng 5:1-19](#))
11. Gehazi cursed with a skin disease ([2 Kng 5:25-27](#))
12. Miracle of finding the axe ([2 Kng 6:1-7](#))
13. Capturing a band of Aramaeans by striking them blind ([2 Kng 6:8-23](#))
14. Prophesizing relief from the enemy and the famine ([2 Kng 6:24-7:20](#))
15. Prophesizing the death of Ben-Hadad and the rise of Hazael ([2 Kng 8:7-15](#))
16. Prophesizing that Israel's defeat of King Hazael of Damascus ([2 Kng 13:14-19](#))

Scripture: 2 Kings 4:1 — *"Now a certain woman of the wives of the sons of the prophets cried out to Elisha, "Your servant my husband is dead, and you know that your servant feared the Lord; and the creditor has come to take my two children to be his slaves."*

I. A woman seeks helps from Elisha.

- A. What was this woman’s standing before God? _____
- B. What was the plight of the of this particular woman? _____
1. Did the creditor have a legal right to her children? _____

II. Elisha ministers to the plight of God’s faithful.

2 Kings 4:2 — *"Elisha said to her, "What shall I do for you? Tell me, what do you have in the house?" And she said, "Your maidservant has nothing in the house except a jar of oil*

- A. Where was Elisha seeking to find the solution to her plight? _____
- B. Why did the woman disparage the one thing she had of value? _____
1. Where else in scripture do we see that God is not limited by small quantities?

 2. Why does God even prefer to save with few? _____

III. Elisha gives instructions that will lead to provision from God.

2 Kings 4:3–5—”³ Then he said, “Go, borrow vessels at large for yourself from all your neighbors, even empty vessels; do not get a few. ⁴ “And you shall go in and shut the door behind you and your sons, and pour out into all these vessels, and you shall set aside what is full.”

- A. What might a regular person be expecting to receive for a financial emergency? _____
1. What do most people with financial problems come to seeking at church? _____
 2. Why don’t people Go to church looking for prayer or a miracle?

B. How does this woman respond to these unconventional instructions? -v5-6 _____

2 Kings 4:5-6 — *"⁵ So she went from him and shut the door behind her and her sons; they were bringing the vessels to her and she poured. ⁶ When the vessels were full, she said to her son, "Bring me another vessel." And he said to her, "There is not one vessel more." And the oil stopped."*

1. Has God ever led you to do something odd to solve a problem in your life?
2. Who else in scripture was told to do something odd by God to solve their problem?
 - a. _____
3. Why does God do this sometimes? **Hebrews 11:6**

IV. Elisha instructs her on the final step to resolving her problem.

2 Kings 4:7 — *"⁷ Then she came and told the man of God. And he said, "Go, sell the oil and pay your debt, and you and your sons can live on the rest.""*

A. Explain how the widow accomplished the following principles:

1. Obedience –
2. Faith –
3. Miracle -
4. Provision –