

The Widow's Oil

(08/23/17)

Ref Verse- **Rom 5:1-2**

- I. **Rom 15:2**- The responsibility of the Body of Christ to each other
 - A) **Heb 7:25**- Men that say “all that needs preaching is salvation from hell” never edify the believers
 - 1) Babies needs milk, but children need stronger food and adults meat
 - i. A milk only diet for an adult would be deadly
 - ii. But an adult looks on as a baby eats, and even mimics the effect of the spoon in mouth, enjoying and remembering his own experiences
 - a) Use the example of Chris in Monday class and watching the new folks hear the gospel
 - B) God doesn't come on believers in fire and awe, but in a steady supply, the still small voice.
 - 1) He comes on the unbelieving world in fire and wrath
- II. We are always the source of quenching the Spirit
 - A) **James 4:2-3**- Ye have not because ye ask not”
 - 1) Through disobedience and negligence we choke the channel through which God's blessing flow
 - i. **1 Thess 5:17-24**- We quench the flow of Spirit
 - 2) **Psa 81:10**- “Open thy mouth and I will fill it”
 - i. Sadly, each believer has exactly as much of God as we desire
 - ii. **2 Cor 6:11-12**- “Ye are not straightened in us, but your own bowels”
 - a) **Phil 2:13**- God gives not only what is needed to perform His work, but first the desire and man is moved to action or blocks it by his own desires
 - 1. “Wishing is one thing, willing is another”
 - 2. **James 1:4-7**- Don't waver in prayer
 - (a) **Matt 25:29**- To him that hath shall be given and to him that hath not shall be taken
 - (1) Hypertrophy and Atrophy- The muscle used (exercised) gets stronger still and the unused (given but not exercised) loses even what it has
 - 3. **2 Kings 13:14-19**- Should have asked more
 - (a) **Gen 19:23-33**- Abraham stopped short of God's full grace
 - (b) **Matt 14:28-31**- Peter walked on water but failed
 - (c) **Matt 21:21**- Faith to move mountains
 - (1) Our faith fails, not His promises

III. Desire, Expectancy and Obedience

A) Observe how this widow is first a vessel of desire, then a vessel of expectancy, and finally a vessel of obedience

B) **2 King 4:1-7**- Elisha and the Widow's oil

1. V1.

- i. Notice her husband had not become "healthy and wealthy" physically in service to the Lord
- ii. Also notice he wasn't a celibate monk in seclusion
- iii. **Lev 25:39-41**- Sons could be sold to pay debt according to Law
- iv. **Matt 18:25**- Example
- v. The widow's sons were not allowed to be slaves in order that they could serve (**Rom 6:14**)
- vi. The creditor had every right to what was owed
- vii. Elisha is bound by Law to care for widow (**Deut 14:29, 24:17, 26:12, 27:19**)
- viii. Compare a righteous God caring for Israel even in her "widowed" state
- ix. Elijah and Elisha both performed their miracles among the northern tribes in the lowest of her idolatrous state
 - a) Light always shines brightest in gross darkness

2. V2.

- i. Elisha must have known what he was going to do, but asked in order that her petitions be made to him
 - a) **Matt 6:8**- Your Father knows what ye have need of before you ask, but still command us to ask (**Phil 4:6**)
 - b) She first had to take inventory of her house and see she had nothing but the oil (type of the Spirit)
 1. This is the place the Lord desires to bring every son, to acknowledgment of complete dependence upon God
 - (1) **John 6:68**- Peter: "where could we go Lord?"
 - (2) **John 3:27**- A man has nothing except it is given him from God
- ii. Oil- *acwuck*- "a flax for anointing oil" and not the kind they used to cook
 - a) The women in the east would bathe and then put the oil on their skin as women do with lotion today
 1. Cleansed and anointed is the picture
 2. The same way in which the anointing oil for the priest was placed over the blood already applied to ear, thumb and toe

3. V3.

- i. Elisha doesn't just give her a handout, but provides a means for her to experience God's supply as she works ("faith without works is dead")
- ii. She is to gather the neighbor's "empty vessels"

- a) An empty vessel will be easily relinquished, but not a full one, and all the easier to one who is also emptied
 - 1. **Luke 18:9-14**- The Pharisee and the Publican
 - 2. **Psa 34:18**- The broken man is ready to receive seed just as the broken ground is
 - b) “Bring your neighbors vessels” is like inviting to hear the gospel
 - 1. Pastors don’t make sheep, sheep do
 - c) No restrictions are given for the vessels, and no mention of suitability, nor any instructions given for a “pre-cleaning.” The vessels come “Just As I am”
 - d) This would result in every sort of vessel, of all shapes, sizes and expense
4. **V4.**
- i. This miracle is not a sign to the unbelieving world, this is for her own edification, as well as her house to see God’s supply of His Own
 - a) Only those “in the house” enjoyed the benefit of this miracles’ testimony
 - ii. “Shut the door” is similar to “enter thy closet” when thou pray
 - a) Undivided attention, no outward disturbance and no possibility that another could claim credit for supply
 - 1. Single-mindedness in prayer
 - b) If the door was left open, parasites would immediately come in and snatch up the supply
 - 1. “All Christians have their hand out, either palm up wanting or palm down supplying”
 - c) **2 Cor 9:8**- God and God alone supplies His House and ambassadors
5. **V5.**
- i. Each son is given a task to perform
 - ii. This is an act of faith; the woman heard instructions and then acted on them (“faith without works is dead”)
 - a) This entire event is for the benefit of her and her house, in order that they could see what the Lord already knew and promised
 - b) If we never step out by faith we never learn these valuable truths
 - iii. Notice she is to pour what seems to be her paltry supply into the vessels of others, and yet the Lord never lets her run out (faith)
6. **V6.**
- i. The oil never ran out, the vessels did
 - a) The Lord only stops filling when we stop bringing our vessel to Him to fill
 - b) **2 Cor 9:8**- Lord’s supply is more than the need
 - 1. **John 4**- The Living Water in endless supply
 - ii. The oil stayed (stopped) as soon as the need did
 - a) God knows exactly when and how much to give of His Spirit
 - b) No oil was wasted nor poured on the ground

1. His supply is only for the vessels (“the Lord knoweth them that are His”)
- c) No vessels left empty
 1. **John 6:37**- All that come to me I will in no wise cast out
- iii. Notice she didn’t count the vessels or “keep score.” She didn’t even know the results, she was too focused on the job at hand
- iv. Imagine this lady first pouring, cringing at the thought of pouring out her last trickle of oil, and then the trickle didn’t stop. In amazement she begins to watch as the flow continues, and her worry and anxiousness turn to joy and she begins to sing as the oil flows
7. **V7.**
 - i. He knew what was done, but she came and told him anyway
 - a) God provided for this woman and she first acknowledges this
 - b) She acknowledges God had provided and then seeks direction as to what is to be done with His supply
 1. Human instinct would at once have been to take the first vessel and hoard it or start to day dream, “What should I buy first?”
 2. This woman acknowledges that all is God’s and is given for His purposes and not for our prosperity
 3. She knows and understands that this is not “her property” but that she has only been a vessel through which the Spirit has flowed
 - ii. He tells her first and foremost, “go pay thy debt”
 - a) This is done before sampling the oil or buying any food
 - b) God supplied this woman’s need to keep her sons from slavery and to keep them in the service He wanted
 1. Can we not believe He will supply us the power to rise above self and sin to serve Him?
 2. By supplying her need and satisfying her debts, God’s name was not sullied (“you know how those church people are about paying bills”)
 - iii. The creditors and anyone else who partook of the blessing of this oil had no idea about the Supplier and His means, nor did they even know they had been the beneficiaries of such a marvelous work
 - a) “Ye are the salt of the earth”- the presence of the Church in the world is the means through which the world partakes of God’s longsuffering and even His gracious supply