



**DO WHAT YOU CAN....  
GOD WILL DO WHAT YOU CAN'T**

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**Mothers and Fathers have always had  
heavy burdens when it comes  
to their families**

- **Medical**
- **Financial**
- **Legal**

**On this Mother's day, we will look  
at a couple of mothers facing  
desperate situations in their lives  
and the lives of their children**

## **1 Kings 17:8-10**

**And the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, Arise, get thee to Zarephath, which belongeth to Zidon, and dwell there: behold, I have commanded a widow woman there to sustain thee. So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, the widow woman was there gathering of sticks: and he called to her, and said, Fetch me, I pray thee, a little water in a vessel, that I may drink.**

**Elijah is told by God that a widow is going to be in this city to feed him**

**pay attention to what she is doing when Elijah finds her,**

**she “was there gathering of sticks”**

**GOD ALWAYS CALL BUSY  
PEOPLE TO SERVE HIM!!**

## **1 Kings 17:11-12**

**And as she was going to fetch it, he called to her, and said, Bring me, I pray thee, a morsel of bread in thine hand. And she said, As the LORD thy God liveth, I have not a cake, but an handful of meal in a barrel, and a little oil in a cruse: and, behold, I am gathering two sticks, that I may go in and dress it for me and my son, that we may eat it, and die.**

**In this time period, the word widow was practically synonymous with poor largely unprotected by the law and easily exploited she was not an Israelite**

**The widow responds by sharing her desperate situation**

**poverty-stricken with barely any food  
she was gathering sticks to cook her last meal  
for her and her son “that we may eat it and  
die”**

**CAN YOU IMAGINE HER  
DISTRESS?  
HER PAIN?  
HER FEARS?**

**She knows God's will but can't do it**

**she is focused on how little she has**

**she expects the worst to happen**

**FEAR ROBS OUR THOUGHTS OF GOD'S  
MIRACLE WORKING POWER**

## **Psalms 40:17**

**But I am poor and needy; yet the Lord  
thinketh upon me: thou art my help  
and my deliverer; make no tarrying,  
O my God.**

## **2 Cor 9:8**

**And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:**

## **Ex 23:25**

**And ye shall serve the LORD your God, and he shall bless thy bread, and thy water; and I will take sickness away from the midst of thee.**

## **1 Kings 17:13-14**

**And Elijah said unto her, Fear not; go and do as thou hast said: but make me thereof a little cake first, and bring it unto me, and after make for thee and for thy son. For thus saith the LORD God of Israel, The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that the LORD sendeth rain upon the earth.**

**IN YOUR DESPERATION,  
GOD WILL TEST YOUR  
DETERMINATION!!!**

**Elijah challenges the widow to believe  
and trust the Lord and his provision**

**remember, Elijah tells her to make him the cake  
1st AND THEN feed herself and her son  
he also tells her God would replenish the oil  
and flour miraculously until the Lord sends rain**

**WOULD YOU STILL BELIEVE GOD  
WHEN YOU'RE STARVING  
TO DEATH???**

## **1 Kings 17:15-16**

**And she went and did according to the saying of Elijah: and she, and he, and her house, did eat many days. And the barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake by Elijah.**

# **This mother/widow and her triumph of faith**

- she was fearful , now she is faithful**
- she was part of the misery, now she is part of the miracle**
- she obeyed God's word, and he honored her faith**

**“and she, and he, and her house,  
did eat many days”**

**WE ARE NEVER TOLD WHEN  
GOD MADE IT RAIN!!!!**

**HIS GRACE IS MORE THAN SUFFICIENT  
FOR OUR NEEDS!!!!**

## **Gen 28:15**

**And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of.**

# **Psalm 34:7**

**The angel of the LORD encampeth  
round about them that fear him,  
and delivereth them.**

## **2 Kings 4:1**

**Now there cried a certain woman of the wives of the sons of the prophets unto Elisha, saying, Thy servant my husband is dead; and thou knowest that thy servant did fear the LORD: and the creditor is come to take unto him my two sons to be bondmen.**

# **Another widow/mother, another desperate situation**

- **her husband had died apparently unexpectedly**
- **she had 2 sons to take care of**

**She tells Elisha the real problem**

**the husband died apparently still owing a debt, and the bondsmen was coming to collect her children as collateral for that debt**

**DEATH AND DEBTS ARE TWO OF  
LIFE'S GREATEST BURDENS**

**OT law allowed taking children as bond-servants for limited periods of time  
(Exodus 21:2, 7/ Leviticus 25:39-46/ Deut 15:12-18)**

- **this provision was often abused**
- **she apparently had no one to act on her behalf**

**BLESSED ARE THE MOTHERS AND  
FATHERS THAT GO TO GOD  
WHEN THEIR FAMILY IS IN NEED!!!!!!**

## **2 Kings 4:2**

**And Elisha said unto her, What shall I do for thee? tell me, what hast thou in the house? And she said, Thine handmaid hath not any thing in the house, save a pot of oil.**

**A fascinating/searching question posed by Elisha**

**“what hast thou in thy house?”**

**IN OTHER WORDS...**

**DO YOU HAVE MONEY FOR GROCERIES? FOR  
GAS? FOR THE KIDS NEEDS?**

**ENOUGH FOR TODAY? TOMORROW? THIS WEEK?**

**THESE ARE THE QUESTIONS WE WOULD ASK TODAY**

**HER RESPONSE?**

**“THINE HANDMAID HATH NOT ANY THING  
IN THE HOUSE, SAVE A POT OF OIL”**

**WE ALWAYS TEND TO FOCUS ON WHAT WE  
DONT HAVE, DONT WE?**

**She thinks she has nothing, but this is the turning  
point in her life**

**HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN SINCE YOU COUNTED YOUR  
BLESSINGS?**

**COUNTING YOUR BLESSINGS WILL MAKE YOU  
REDISCOVER YOUR HOUSE, YOUR FAMILY, YOUR  
FURNITURE AND YOUR LOVE!!!**

**The answer to lifting your burdens  
may be right at home**

# **Psalms 132:15**

**I will abundantly bless her provision:  
I will satisfy her poor with bread.**

## **Jeremiah 49:11**

**Leave thy fatherless children,  
I will preserve them alive;  
and let thy widows trust in me.**

## **2 Kings 4:3-4**

**Then he said, Go, borrow thee vessels abroad of all thy neighbours, even empty vessels; borrow not a few. 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.**

**Elisha tells her to ask her neighbors to borrow as many empty vessels as she can**

- this is thinking big “borrow not a few”**
- expecting God to come through for you!!!**

# **After that is done, Elisha tells her to seek privacy in her home**

- **this is meant to give glory to God and not brag about what YOU have done**
- **she was to be working on filling ALL the jars until they were full**

**WHEN GOD GIVES YOU A JOB TO DO,  
THERE IS WORK TO BE DONE!!!**

## **2 Kings 4:6-7**

**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. 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.**

**The small pot of oil multiplied to fill ALL the vessels**

**Elisha tells her to pay off her debts and save her sons  
"and live thou and thy children of the rest"**

**GOD DIDNT JUST GIVE ENOUGH  
OIL FOR HER DEBT....**

**HE GAVE THEM ENOUGH FOR  
THE REST OF THEIR LIVES!!!!**

## **Psalms 68:5**

**A father of the fatherless, and a judge of the widows, is God in his holy habitation.**

## **Psalms 146:8-9**

**The LORD openeth the eyes of the blind: the LORD raiseth them that are bowed down: the LORD loveth the righteous: The LORD preserveth the strangers; he relieveth the fatherless and widow: but the way of the wicked he turneth upside down.**

## **Proverbs 15:25**

**The LORD will destroy the house of the proud:  
but he will establish the border of the widow.**

## **Matthew 15:21-22**

**Then Jesus went thence, and departed into the coasts of Tyre and Sidon. And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil.**

# **Once again, a mother who is a foreigner**

- **Jesus is in pagan territory**
- **by culture and language this woman would have been considered a Greek**

**Her greatest problem has to do with her daughter**

- **did she have other problems?**
- **Surely she did but they all pale in comparison**

**THE MOST DISTRESSING OF ALL PARENTAL  
PROBLEMS ARE THE ENEMY'S ATTACK  
ON THEIR CHILDREN!!!!**

## **Matthew 15:23**

**But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us.**

**EVER NOTICE HERE THAT IT SEEMS  
LIKE JESUS IS  
COMPLETELY IGNORING HER?**

**THE DISCIPLES' RESPONSE  
SHOWED THAT THEY WANTED  
NOTHING TO DO WITH HER**

**This is a textbook example for those of us who have gone through a time when God seemed to go “quiet”**

- **don't stop praying**
- **don't get angry**
- **be thankful for what God has given you**

# **1 Thes 5:18**

**In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.**

## **Hebrews 4:16**

**Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.**

## **Jeremiah 29:11**

**For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.**

## **Matthew 15:24-28**

**But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel. Then came she and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me. But he answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to dogs. And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table. Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour.**

**CAN YOU REMAIN PERSISTENT IN  
YOUR PRAYER WHEN IT SEEMS LIKE  
EVERYTHING IS FALLING APART?**

# **This woman's faith and dedication are immortalized forever**

- **the disciples did not want her there, Jesus didn't answer her at first**
- **the Lord's strange statements about lost sheep and a dog**
- **they seem disrespectful and rude on the surface**

**JESUS WAS TESTING HER FAITH!!!  
HE WILL DO THE SAME TO ME AND YOU!!!!**

## **Psalms 34:19**

**Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but  
the LORD delivereth him out of them all.**

## **Psalms 46:1**

**God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.**

## **Isaiah 30:15**

**For thus saith the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel; In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength: and ye would not.**

**DO WHAT YOU CAN.....  
GOD WILL DO WHAT YOU CAN'T!!!**

**WE NOW HAVE SEEN 3 DIFFERENT  
MOTHERS IN THE BIBLE  
FACING EXTREME DESPERATION REGARDING THEIR  
CHILDREN/FAMILY**

- THEY WERE PHYSICAL THREATS**
- THEY WERE FINANCIAL THREATS**
- THEY WERE SPIRITUAL THREATS**

**NONE OF THEM WERE  
WEALTHY, THEY HAD RUN  
OUT OF OPTIONS**

**IN THEIR DESPERATION, WHAT DID THEY DO??  
THEY TURNED TO GOD FOR HELP!!!!!**

**GOD TESTED EACH OF THEM,  
AND  
THEY ALL PASSED!!!**

**ALL THE FAMILIES WERE REWARDED  
AND  
BLESSED BECAUSE OF IT!!!**

**LET THEM BE AN EXAMPLE FOR  
ALL OF US TODAY!!!!**

**DO WHAT YOU CAN FOR GOD NOW!!!**

**AND**

**EXPECT GOD TO DO WHAT YOU CAN'T!!!**



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GOD WILL DO WHAT YOU CAN'T**

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