

2 Kings 4:1-7 NIV

# Mission Possible: The LORD Will Provide Our Needs!

Sunday, October 6 at 8:00 &amp; 10:45

Monday, October 7 at 7 PM

20<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost / 19<sup>th</sup> After Trinity – 2013

**Introduction:** Dear friends in Christ: These are some of the lessons God wants us to learn today:

- Even if things seem impossible, *trust in the LORD!*
- The more we do God's Word, *the more we will benefit!*
- We should always *live by faith!*
- God will always *provide our needs!*

## 1. **The Widow's Impossible Situation:**

- a. <sup>1</sup> **The wife of a man from the company of the prophets cried out to Elisha, "Your servant my husband is dead, and you know that he revered the LORD. But now his creditor is coming to take my two boys as his slaves." //** So the man who died was a godly man, *a faithful disciple of Elisha*, but his debt left his wife in trouble when he died. He had no insurance policy that kicked-in to pay his debt at the time of his death, so the man *to whom he owed the money* was coming to collect. Since his wife could not pay, *the man would enslave her sons until the debt was paid!* The Bible explains that practice in Leviticus 25:39-41.

- b. <sup>2</sup> **Elisha replied to her, "How can I help you? Tell me, what do you have in your house?" "Your servant has nothing there at all," she said, "except a little oil." //**
- Sometimes, *today*, people in debt have many options to pay their debts: **+**Stop going out to eat, **+**turn off the AC, **+**stop buying things that are not essential, **+**cancel the cable TV, **+**downgrade to a basic phone, or **+**get a part-time job.
  - But the widow in 2 kings, *living almost 2,900 years ago*, had no such options; all she had of any value was **"a little oil," "literally 'anointing oil,' such as was used after the bath."** (Kreztmann, I:609) So any way to avert her children being taken into slavery seemed impossible, *yet she continued to trust in the LORD!*
2. **The Illogical Request:** <sup>3</sup> **Elisha said, "Go around and ask all your neighbors for empty jars. Don't ask for just a few. <sup>4</sup> Then go inside and shut the door behind you and your sons. Pour oil into all the jars, and as each is filled, put it to one side." //**
- Elisha's instructions were clear *but the reality of what he said seemed impossible. There are times in life when we must make a choice:* We will do what the world expects **OR** we will boldly follow God's Word. Notice how Elisha told the woman to do this illogical thing *of asking for empty jars* in front of **"all"** of her neighbors. Can you imagine her asking for the jars; *then having*

to explain why! Elisha also added: “Don’t ask for just a few.” Be bold in your asking; *get as many as you can!*

- b. Then imagine her – *a godly woman* – following through with this pouring in front of her sons. If God grants a miracle, *they will all be blessed*; but if God does not come through, *she will look super-foolish in the eyes of her sons and her entire community!* Would you follow Elisha’s instructions? God always wants to bless us, *but is our faith mature enough to receive His blessings!*
3. **The Widow’s Faith:** <sup>5</sup> **She left him and afterward shut the door behind her and her sons. They brought the jars to her and she kept pouring.** <sup>6</sup> **When all the jars were full, she said to her son, “Bring me another one.” But he replied, “There is not a jar left.” Then the oil stopped flowing. //**
- a. *She stepped out in faith!* She did exactly as Elisha had told her; *she kept pouring until every jar was full!* Can you imagine ♦the amazement, ♦the joy, ♦the wonder that filled the hearts and minds of the woman and her sons as they saw jar-after-jar being filled FROM THE ONE JAR! *The LORD provided JUST ENOUGH for every jar!*
- b. We could also say that *the number of jars she collected* was a reflection of the maturity of her faith. Hopefully afterward she said: *Praise God for making me so determined to collect so many jars!* Then, may her faith inspire us to *live by our faith!*

4. **The LORD’s Miraculous Provision:** <sup>7</sup> **She went and told the man of God, and he said, “Go, sell the oil and pay your debts. You and your sons can live on what is left.” //** God is good; He does provide *our needs* and *the ability to pay our debts!*

**Conclusion:** As the LORD provided for the woman in her seemingly impossible situation, *so He calls us to trust in Him to provide for us in every circumstance!*

- For eternal life, *let us keep trusting in Jesus who lived and died for all!*
- For this life, *let us be like the woman by trusting God and obeying His Word!*

And all God’s people said: **Amen!**