



WEST ORLANDO CHRISTIAN CENTER
CHURCH FAMILY

Lesson Notes for Sunday, March 8, 2020
"Prayer That Works" Series

"YOUR FAITH, GOD'S POWER, YOUR VICTORY" 1st Kings 4:1-7
Pastor Byron Stevenson

Fill in the blank...

- "The _____ of a lifetime needs to be seized during the lifetime of the _____." — *Leonard Ravenhill*
- "If a window of _____ appears, don't pull down the shade." *Tom Peters*
- "Someone's sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago." *Warren _____*
- "How much I missed, simply because I was afraid of _____ it." *Paulo Coelho*
- "I will prepare and someday my _____ will come." *Abraham Lincoln*
- "Most people miss _____ because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work." *Thomas A. Edison*
- "Success is where preparation and _____ meet." *Bobby Unser*
- "_____ are like sunrises. If you wait too long, you miss them." *William Arthur Ward*

1. INTRODUCTION

The brief account of the widow's oil illustrates God's blessing. God provides a means of income for the widow, a "pastor's wife," and her family. In the miracle of the widow's oil, we learn valuable lessons on how to receive God's blessing of provision in times of need. We shall find out how to desire, expect, and take hold of God's supply in difficult times.

The story begins with a cry for help from one of the wives of "the sons of the prophets". Who were these sons of the prophets? They were not physical sons, but spiritual sons of the great prophets, Elijah and Elisha, junior prophets and future prophets.

2. THE SITUATION

That is the situation is a pastor's wife is left with her husband's debt. Unfortunately, he died before he could pay off his debt. It is now up to his grieving widow to pay it off. The problem is—she could not pay it. Being a widow meant poverty in those days. **She had no source of income.** She could not pay her bills. She faced two overwhelming problems—**death and debt.**

The creditor is coming to get her two kids to become his servants, to pay off the debt. Such is the severity of the problem. You might think that this is a terrible way to pay the debt. In the Law of Moses, if you could not pay your debt, your creditor has the right to claim payment by taking your children as servants. They will have to work for him until the year of Jubilee. **(Lev. 25:39-41; Ex. 21:7). Jubilee is the YEAR OF RELEASE.**

3. THE WIDOW'S ATTITUDE

- A. The widow did not say, "Lord, is this how you reward your servants who fear You?"
- i. She did not complain. She did not borrow money from other people. She did not turn to family or friends. **She turned to God.**

Write about it... How can you adjust your attitude in a way that will glorify God and not the situation?

4. THE SIZE OF THE POTENTIAL

- A. Elisha did not say, "Ok, you should let go and let God." Elisha did not say, "It's okay. God will provide." Instead, Elisha makes her participate in a miracle of God. He asks the first question, "What shall I do for you?"
- i. Elisha seems to be saying, "As the prophet of God, what shall I do for you, in behalf of God?" In asking this question, Elisha is making her take part in a miracle.
 - ii. **He is opening the windows of heaven for her. God has heard her cry.** God is about to do something for her. You have to expect God to do something for you, for His glory. Yes, expect God to do something wonderful.

Write about it... What do you expect God to do for you?

5. YOUR STEP OF FAITH

- A. Then Elisha asks a second question, "What have you in the house" (2 Ki. 4:2)?
1. With this question, he is asking her to join in a miracle. He is involving her in a miracle. This is what I mean by the size of the potential.
 2. **God is drawing out the faith potential of the widow by drawing out the size of her faith. The scale of her obedience to God's Word measures the size of her faith.**
 3. **It is not enough to trust God while doing nothing.** You have to join God in what He is going to do. You join God by taking a step of faith. **The tools of blessing are something she already has, not something she does not have.**

Write about it... What do you have in your house that God can use to change your life?

There's a story of two men who went down to a lake one day to do some trout fishing.

One man had a strange habit. Every time he would catch a trout he would pull out a little ruler and measure it. If the trout measured larger than the ruler he would throw it back. So strangely enough he kept all of the little trout that he caught, but he threw back all the big ones.

Well his partner watched that all day long, and as they prepared to leave he looked at him and said, "I can't stand this any longer. I have never seen a man fish like you in my life. . . . You've kept all of the small trout and thrown back all of the big ones. . . . Why did you do that?"

*The man said, **"Because I only have an eight-inch frying pan."***