

## **Make an Impact through Giving: A Desperate Situation**

### **II Kings 4:1-7**

### **Sunday a.m. 4/29/2018**

- ❖ We have talked about what God's word teaches about money and stewardship over the past three weeks
  - ✿ We have talked about the important fact that God owns everything
  - ✿ We answered the question of "What truly happens when we give?"
  - ✿ We recognized that God wants us to be a part of His story!
- ❖ We will look today at a desperate situation in this final message in the series, **Make an Impact through Giving**
- ❖ Many people in church and this community are in desperate situations
- ❖ I hope today's message can change your situation
- ❖ Most of us have experienced a time in our life where we've said, "It will take a miracle for us to get out of this mess!"
  - ✿ We heard the story of John and Ashley Marsh's life last week
  - ✿ Their marriage, their life and their finances were a mess
- ❖ But, both John and Ashley trusted Christ and now their lives reflect the wonderful redemptive work of the Gospel
  - ✿ **This message applies to any situation you are facing where you are desperate for God to show up!**
- **Let's start out with this great news:**
  - ✿ **Jesus knows your story and He loves you**

### **II Kings 4:1-7**

- ❖ This is a true story about a financial turn around
- ❖ I believe we can learn so much from this story today.
- ❖ Let's look at the situation and see the financial principle

## ■ A Desperate Situation

### II Kings 4:1

#### J. Hampton Keathley III

“The real issue is not the problem, but in our response to the Lord in the face of problems. How do we respond or react? This is the crucial issue!”

- Contentment in a desperate situation is important

### 1 Timothy 6:7-8 (NKJV)

<sup>7</sup> For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. <sup>8</sup> And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content.

- ★ Are you desperate or do you not have what you want?

- Faithfulness to God in a desperate situation is important

- + This prophet was probably part of the School of the Prophets
- + The widow came to Elisha because her husband was faithful to God
- + The wife knew she could go to the man of God because she was faithful

- ★ But now we have another Mediator, Jesus Christ the Righteous, and every Christian in trouble should take his burden to his God in Christ Jesus.

#### Charles Spurgeon

“Be more concerned to act like a Christian in your present condition than to escape from it. Remember, however poor you are, your Master was poorer and that whatever else you have not, you still have a share in His love.”

- We are to cry out to God in a desperate situation

### Psalm 40:1-2 (NKJV)

I waited patiently for the LORD; and He inclined to me and heard my cry.  
<sup>2</sup> He also brought me up out of a horrible pit, out of the miry clay and set my feet upon a rock and established my steps.

## **1 Peter 5:6-7 (NKJV)**

<sup>6</sup> Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, <sup>7</sup> casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

### **★ Do we cry out to God in our desperate situations?**

#### **• The desperate situation directly impacted the family**

-  Debt is not always the result of poor financial planning, but the loss of a job, critical health issues

### **Charles Spurgeon**

"Her husband had been among the persecuted and having been, by oppression, deprived of all that he had, it came to pass that when he died he left his wife and children in distress."

-  The wife was in a desperate and hopeless situation
-  Without any savings, widows were almost guaranteed poverty
-  She lost her husband and now is facing the loss of her children
- ❖ Can you imagine living with this dreadful situation?
- ❖ Do you feel you are in a hopeless situation?
  -  I have seen people get out of desperate, no hope situations
  -  I have watched them make more of their life than anyone thought

### **★ They put their trust in God**

#### **■ Trust God!**

## **II Kings 4:2–4**

-  It is easy to discount everything to zero when things are hopeless
-  It is hard to see what you do have.
- ❖ The widow said, "Your servant has nothing there at all, except a little oil."
- ★ She said she only had a little oil, but she had a lot more than that!**

**"God often begins with what we already have."**

**“Unbelief might have said to her, “This is useless! How can you fill these vessels out of that one little jar? There is but very little oil to begin with, and certainly that cannot be enough to fill all these borrowed jars. The Prophet is making you a laughing stock to all your neighbors.”**

❖ She did what she was commanded to do in faith and God provided

➤ **What did she have beside a little oil?**

- ✚ She also still had her sons (they weren't taken by the creditor – yet!)
- ✚ She also had neighbors! (v3)
- ✚ She had access to the man of God!
- ✚ She was healthy enough to get to the man of God!
- ✚ She had desperation (Desperation will cause people to be willing to do something they ordinarily would never do!)

**Matthew 6:31-34**

★ **If things appear hopeless, it is easy to discount everything to zero, but what do you have?**

- ✚ You have direct access to God through prayer and His Word!
- ✚ You have children, family, friends, co-workers, neighbors
- ✚ You have skills and education
- ✚ You have faith

**■ Do What He Says**

**II Kings 4:5**

- ✓ Do we expect God to do anything?
- ✓ You pray for a job. Do you expect God to provide?
- ✓ Obedience and faith is important

**J. Hampton Keathley III**

“Note that she was not requested to gather a specific number of vessels; God wanted her to act in faith. For this reason Elisha warned, “do not get a few.”

★ **In other words, bring as many as you have faith that God will fill**

- **The neighbors helped by providing empty jars**

➤ **Do you think they were asking why she needed the jars?**

❖ God chooses to use people to accomplish His work!

★ **Asking the neighbors allowed the entire neighborhood to witness and participate in the miracle!**

✚ They all knew her husband had died.

✚ They all knew her children were in jeopardy of being placed into slavery to repay her husband's debts.

★ **The least they could do is provide jars, but it required the lady and her sons to do what God said by asking for the jars!**

❖ No matter our current financial situation, we can all learn from this!

✚ Have you sought God's will?

✚ For your life?

✚ For your marriage?

✚ For your children?

✚ For your business or career?

✚ Are you doing what He says?

★ **What would have happened if the widow had sought God's guidance but refused to do what He said?**

She would have:

✚ Gone into poverty

✚ Lost her children to slavery

✚ Sunk into complete despair

Some might be able to relate to these feelings and real situations.

My challenge to you is to seek God and then do what He asks you to do.

When we are faithful to do our part, He is always faithful to do His part!

## ■ A Miracle

### II Kings 4:5–7

This was a true miracle

Don't expect God to do a miracle with your desperate situation

There must be work, trust and faith on our part

- ❖ Scripture gives us financial principles
- ❖ Do we obey them?

### Proverbs 21:25 (NKJV)

The desire of the lazy man kills him, for his hands refuse to labor.

### II Kings 4:7

God provided enough, but how much is enough for you?

**“Some are not content with this, but would have the oil run beyond the last vessel, even after their deaths, never resting till they have hoarded their thousands and have buried their hearts in gold dust. If the oil will but run till the last vessel is full, what more do we need?”**

This is not about getting wealthy or having a bunch of stuff

God gave more than enough!

The widow asked for help to save her sons from slavery, and God did that  
Plus, he provided enough for all three of them to live on!

## Close

★ It is my prayer that this series has helped you in a real and substantial way.

- ✚ God wants empty vessels to fill
- ✚ God likes to show up in times of desperation
- ✚ Are you desperate for God as much as your situation is desperate?
- ✚ Will you trust God with your life?
- ✚ Will you obey God in your desperate situation?