**God Will Turn It Around**

(2nd Kings 4:1-7 KJV)

*1Now 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.****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.****3****Then he said, Go, borrow thee vessels abroad of all thy neighbours, even empty vessels; borrow not a few.****4****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.****5****So she went from him, and shut the door upon her and upon her sons, who brought the vessels to her; and she poured out.****6****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.****7****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.*

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ave you ever been in a predicament that you didn’t know if your present circumstances would conclude with more calamity or comfort? Have you ever been in a situation whereas your closest friends comforted you with kind words, that through thick and thin no matter what you needed, that they would be there for you in the time of need? But! When that time arrived you searched all over for them and couldn’t find them even with the FBI.So often people in ministry, especially those in the public eye, are more concerned with their reputation and popularity than they are for meeting the needs of people. Unfortunately, I’m ashamed to say that our pulpits and other places of public ministry are often filled with those who love to have first place. Whereas where the bible says, “*let the first be last, and the last be first”* (Matthew 20:16). But when we look at the lifestyle of the prophet Elisha; we discover that he was not concerned with the praise and performance of men, neither with position, power, or prestige. Though ministry was filled with miracles they were for the edification of the saints, and not for show. In Fact, Elisha was a type and shadow of the Savior, meaning that he came not to be ministered to, but to minister unto.

Elisha during his day as a Prophet has been through turmoil, but he stayed on God’s course and kept the faith as a servant. He lived during the time of great national degeneracy and apostasy, much like the times in which we live now. The world as a whole was unsympathetic towards God’s people and to the ministry of God’s Word. It seem as though people were living independent t lifestyles, and discredited God as the source of all their blessings. During that time it was tough to be a believer and to stand for the things of God. For many believers it was often hard to even make ends meet—and it was obvious that everyman was focused on self and not the supporting of others.

In the text, Elisha was ministering at a time when Israel had suffered critically, because of several years of unrepentant immorality and idolatry on the part of its leaders. Biblical history records that many of the prophets of God had either been brutally murdered or were fleeing for their lives. But it’s then, in the midst of the story of these dreadfully hard times, that we’re introduced to this wonderful woman of faith. And what a breath of fresh air her story is, in the midst of so much sorrow and hardship and grief! But God—seen her through this tedious, and terrible time. So, let’s dissect the circumstances that she was facing and how God brought her through.

1. **The Widow’s Dilemma:**

(2nd Kings 4:1 KJV)

*1Now 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:*

Surprisingly, I want you to notice that the bible never gives the name of the widows, because God knew that there would be more women and men in the future, who would endure the same circumstance of that day herein, in the twenty first century as well. The bible describes her as “a certain woman of the wives of the sons of the prophets or in modern day terms, she was a dedicated wife of a preacher who feared God”!

“*The sons of the prophets*”, was the name that the Bible gives for those who had committed themselves to gather together as the “students’ under the leadership of the prophets Elijah and Elisha. Yes! That’s correct they went to theological seminary and learned of the oracles of God in order to hide the word of God in their hearts, that they might not sin against Him, and how to lead God’s people. One wasn’t worried about how much the other one knew. There was no such thing as a Master’s degree, Doctoral degree, but to lead the people they had to at least obtain a BA degree (They had to B-orn A-gain). They lived in community with one another and constituted what we might call a spiritual “reform movement” for the things they were enduring. They stood out as God’s “set-apart” people in the midst of a spiritually dark, delirious, and demoralizing culture. And this certain woman was the wife of one of those “*sons of the prophets*”. In their community they had to deal with:

* The broken hearted, backslidden, and diseased
* The orphans, widows, and widowers
* The suffering, hungry, and thirsty
* The poor, homeless, and destitute
* The empty, lonely, and purposeless
* The blind, deaf, deformed, and handicapped
* The hospitalized, bedridden, and the sick and shut-in
* The lost, dying and doomed