

The Widows Oil

2 Kings 4:1-7

May 31, 2020

Davis introduces it this way:

Now we enter a segment of Elisha's ministry in which he shows that Yahweh's power is triumphant over debt (4:1-7), death (4:8-37), drought (4:38-44; two episodes), disease (5:1-27), and difficulty (6:1-7). It is, in its own way, quite a sustained argument. One might compare the section to the battery of Jesus' miracles in Mark's Gospel (4:35-5:43). Some of these Elisha stories are extended narratives (e.g., ch. 5), while others are very brief clips that are stingy with extras. Our current text, 4:1-7, is one of the latter.¹

The Widow's Predicament

The Widow's Faith

The Prophet's Plan

¹ D> Ralph Davis 2 Kings, Focus on the Bible Series, Christian Focus, 2005, p53

The Lord's Response

I'm sure many of you are aware of the account of Corrie Ten Boom's experience when she and her sister Betsie were imprisoned by the Nazis during WWII:²

Frank Gaebelin in the Expositors commentary said:

The woman responded in faith and, miraculously, all came to pass as Elisha had promised (vv.5-6). The fact that she herself was to act in faith would enlarge her faith; the fact that Elisha would not be there when the miracle took place would display the power of God alone and thus encourage her to still greater faith. Devout obedience can produce brimful spiritual blessings!³

² <https://www.google.com/finance?client=ob&q=INDEXDJX:DJI#>

³ Gaebelin, Frank E. *The Expositor's Bible Commentary*: Volume 4. 183. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, © 1988.

Home Study Guide

Monday: Read 2 Kings 4 What was the Widow's need? How was it solved?

Tuesday: John 6 How did the disciples respond to Jesus' wanting to feed the crowd? Compare that to the widow in last Sunday's text.

Wednesday: Ps 61 When distressed and burdened what are you to do? Why?

Sunday's Sermon will be
"The Shunammite's Son and Other Miracles"
2 Kings 4:8-44

Thursday: Gen. 18 What does God promise about Sarah's childlessness? How does she respond?

Friday: 1 Sam 1 What is Hannah's problem? What does she do about it? How does God respond?

Saturday: 1 Sam 2 How does Hannah respond to God?

Prayer Items:

Family Catechism Study

[Westminster Shorter Catechism]

Q. 89. How is the Word made effectual to salvation?

A. The Spirit of God maketh the reading, but especially the preaching of the Word, an effectual means of convincing and converting sinners, and of building them up in holiness and comfort, through faith, unto salvation.

Neh. 8:8-9; Acts 20:32; Rom. 10:14-17; 2 Tim. 3:15-17

The Scriptures are the primary means of grace. It is in the Word that we find the revelation/self disclosure of God. All other means of grace are dependent on the Word to give meaning and definition to them. Notice, also, that it is a function of the Spirit of God to take the Word and apply it to the individual, causing the sinner to respond positively to God. If the role of the Word were so crucial then it would make complete sense to use it daily and diligently.

Study it, memorize it, and apply it to your life and to the various situations with which you are confronted.

The verses noted from Romans 10 stress the importance of the preaching of the Word. Avoiding the preaching of the Word is, then, a depriving oneself of a powerful means of grace. Proclamation, "Thus saith the Lord" has always been an important aspect of the life of the followers of Jehovah.

So, the Spirit takes the Word and applies it to the believer, comforting, encouraging and saving him. Both parts are necessary, the Spirit and the Word. The Word apart from the Spirit is ineffective. "Spirit" apart from the word tends to mysticism.