

Sermon ~ Sunday, July 3, 2022, by Pastor Dwight Benoit

Text: 2 Kings 4: 3 (1-7)

Title: "How Empty are You?"

Empty, adjective means, containing nothing, bare, void...

Some synonyms for "empty" is, vacant, unoccupied, uncloudy, unburdened, deserted..."

"How Empty are You?"

The old deacon would *pray* on Sunday morning, after *another tedious/troubling* but grateful/thankful week...

"O LORD—this morning—We *bow* our hearts beneath our knees. And our knees in this lonesome valley. We come this morning—Like empty pitchers to a full fountain, with no *merits* of our own. O LORD—open up a window of Heaven, and lean out far over the battlements of *Glory*, and hear our humble cry..."

"How Empty are You?"

You may miss the full thrust of this thought if I fell to read to you the *context* of this *text*, so, follow me at verse 1...

--"One day the widow of one of Elisha's fellow prophets came to Elisha and cried out to him, "My husband who served you is dead, and you know how he feared **The LORD**.

But now a creditor has come, threatening to take my two sons as bondmen."

--"What can I do to help you?" Elisha asked. "Tell me, what do you have [of value] in the house?" Nothing at all, except a flask [bottle, jar] of olive oil," she replied.

--And Elisha said, "Borrow as many empty jars as you can from your friends and neighbors.

--Then go into your house with your sons and shut the door behind you. Pour olive oil from your flask into the jars, setting the jars aside as they are filled."

--So she did as she was told. Her sons brought many jars to her, and she filled one after another.

--Soon every container was full to the brim! "Bring me another jar," she said to one of her sons. "There aren't any more!" he told her. And then the olive oil stopped flowing.

--When she told **The Man of GOD** what had happened, he said to her, "Now sell the olive oil and pay your debts, and there will be enough money left over to support you and your sons."

This sorrowing widow, when she found herself in poverty [in need, want, hardship], let me say, *great poverty*, and likely to *lose* her two sons, she *went to* **GOD** in her trouble. She *hastened to* **GOD'S Prophet**, for that was *the way* in which broken hearts would then speak to **GOD** during special *trials*.

And it was *a way* with which, as a prophet's widow, she was well acquainted.

[I tremble to hear Pastors speak about 'don't call me...']

BUT now we have another **MEDIATOR**! "For there is **ONE GOD**, and **ONE MEDIATOR** between **GOD** and man, **The Man CHRIST JESUS**." (1 Timothy 2: 5)

Yea, **JESUS The Righteous**, and every **CHRISTian** in trouble should take their burden to **GOD in JESUS CHRIST**. Never forget to unload your burden(s) at the foot of **The Cross**.

The widow went to **The Prophet**, but **JESUS is GREATER**, even our **LORD**!

"How Empty are You?"

When our *need* is urgent and we spread it before **GOD**, the question is never “about our amount(s),” what we have and don’t have, **GOD KNOWS**, but “how **Empty** is the vessel?”

WE **fear** that there will not be enough oil; **GOD** is concerned if we have **Faith in HIM** and would bring ‘*sufficient vessels*’ to hold what **HE has to give**.

Nuggets...

“**GOD** has a way of **HIS own!** **HE** does **HIS Wonders** as **HE pleases!**”

“Be content to *stand still—wait*, cry to **GOD** in **prayer**. Walk on in *humble reverence*, trust and obey in **JESUS NAME—The SAVIOR**, than attempting to map out a *course* you want **HIM** to *follow*.”

“**GOD GRACE is Sufficient!** [*more than adequate, more than enough, abundant supply*]

Note, what was required. The Woman was to get together “**Empty** jars—these were to be set in her room. All of them *would be* filled. As long as there was any **Empty** left, the oil kept flowing *in* till they were *all* filled to the brim. When they were *all* filled, she asked for *one more* but there was not another **Empty** one. And then the oil stopped, but not until then.

Oh **Church**, we wonder why there is so few *Miracles, Wonders and Signs of Miraculous* happenings, its because, we are too full, half full or almost empty! All that was required was “**Empty** vessels!” That is *all JESUS CHRIST requires of us*—that we be to **HIM** and **HIS Divine Fulness—Empty** vessels! **GRACE is with HIM, not** with us! Just as the oil was in the woman’s *one* pot (flask or jar) and not in the **Empty** vessels, so it is with you and I, “We *must* come **Empty** in order to be *Filled!*”

Nugget... “Our own *supposed* fullness, shuts us out from receiving **CHRIST’S Fulness!**”

The greatest hindrance *to be saved, being saved and Eternally saved*, is not, “*sinful-self*,” but “*righteous-self*.” The “*sinful self*” will come or eventually come, running and asking, ‘what must I do to be saved?’ But the “*righteous-self*” always think, it’s alright!

The *full* oil jar, the *half-full* oil jay, even the oil jar that has a *little* oil in it, will be of no use to **The SAVIOR** and **The SAVIOR** will be of *no use* to it or her/sons.

Even those who no doubt, thought about the woman’s predicament and sent a jar or two with *leftover* oil still in the jar... the mother told her sons... **NO, The Man of GOD** said, **Empty** jars. Don’t fool yourselves, “This is not about ‘you and **GOD**,’ this is about ‘**GOD** and you!’”

Nugget...

The oil was *multiplied* in the *pouring*, not in what was in the jar!

Emptiness is *eligibility!* **Emptiness** proves your *need* of **GOD’S GRACE**, and that *need* is your capacity to *receive!*”

“How Empty are You?”

If you can save yourself, then CHRIST will not save you! Its when you are *without strength...*

“For when we were yet *without strength*, in due time **CHRIST** died for the ungodly.”

My **LORD JESUS** don’t need our help! Don’t ever think there is ‘*some good*’ in you...

“As it is written, There is none righteous, [none that meets **GOD’S Standards**] no, not one.”

(Romans 3: 10)

“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of GOD.” (Romans 3: 23)

Empty buckets are most fit for **GOD'S GRACE**. That woman at the Well in Sychar, told **JESUS**, John 4: 7b, "...Give **ME** to drink." In verse 10, "**JESUS** answered and said unto her, **If thou** knewest **The Gift of GOD**, and **WHO** it is that saith to thee, Give **ME** to drink; thou wouldst have asked of **HIM**, and **HE** would have given thee **LIVING WATER**." "...whoever drinketh of this water [well water] shall thirst again: But whosever drinketh of the water that **I** shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that **I** shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life." (John 4: 13, 14)

But the jar that's **Empty**... Dry, without a trace of oil... maybe it's a long time since you had **The HOLY SPIRIT** moving in your heart... you are dry... very dry... long time since **The HOLY GHOST fire** burned in your bones.

OH, *if you feel* that you are *lost, ruined, empty, undone, don't know what to do*—that's just what **JESUS** wants!

But *if* you are saying, "But *I* feel I'll be alright; *I* know I'm going to be alright; *I* don't know why *I* keep crying all the time," "Why *I* just can't shake it..." this only proves how **Empty** you are!

Nugget...

It's not a *question* of how much **GOD** can *give*, but how much of **HIM** are we willing to *use*.

CHRIST *freely gives* everything we need between 'the gates of hell and the gates of Heaven.'

HE does not half fill us, but **HE** makes our soul say, "My cup runneth over!"

Oooh **Empty** one, come to **JESUS**!