

7/20/03
SUN AM 7/25/04
SUN AM 12/06
SN 3/11

Rags to Riches

II Kings 4:1-7

Intro

Have you ever thought about throwing in the towel? Quitting? Sometimes I come, as the old-times would say, to wit's end. When the story of II Kings 4 opens, it is a scene of misery, poverty and despair. Yet, it is another story that has a good ending. Maybe I can help someone in need with this message. If you are OK today, take the message home with you, wrap it up good and store it in a safe place for someday you will need it.

Problem

The Pain of the Widow (v1,2)

In trouble she was:

Fervent for she cried, desperate

Frank for she poured out her needs to Elisha

This is how we should approach God in trouble.

Her problems are: a)Death b)Debt c)Poverty: on top of debt, cabinets empty, refridge empty, cellar empty, for in all her house all she had was "a pot of oil." "Down to my last nickel"

What are your problems?

All she had was "a pot of oil." That oil represents that grain of mustard seed Christ spoke of. That pot of oil represents the seed of God placed in a child at Salvation. If all else is empty, I will still have the "pot of and with that pot there is hope!

The Plan of the man of God (v3-4)

Elisha conferred. I love his sympathy. Had other things to do beside bother with ~~orphans and widows~~ AND CHILDREN.

This woman in need was Elisha's servant's widow:

a) important to serve God for husband had given Elisha many a cup of cold water! Now, he rewarded! If you never help anyone don't expect to be helped when you have a need.

b) we can be a blessing to those left behind after we are dead and gone if we live our life for Jesus. Many have said "I appreciate G. D. Hogan" I am blessed today because those before me were a blessing- WILL THERE be any blessings tomorrow for those who we leave behind because we have served God. YOU SEE, IF YOUR LIFE ENDS AT DEATH YOU DIDN'T HAVE A LIFE.

→ the plan verse 3-4 *HOW many actually believe God has a plan to solve their problem?* Sounded silly, like putting blood on doorpost.

① She had to do what she was told (v5-6) Namaan II Kings 5

② She had to use what she had (v5) i.e., her pot of oil. We want a doctor to solve our problems, we want church to solve problem, we want preacher to solve. IF YOU ARE NOT WILLING TO MAKE AN EFFORT TOWARD SOLVING YOUR PROBLEM, God doesn't owe you a solution.

③ She had to think big (v3) "borrow not a few" GOD IS BIG. She had to believe in paying off creditors she could pay Pennys,

profits, Sears, 1st National. THE ONLY LIMITS GOD KNOWS IS THOSE WE PUT ON HIM.

I hope someday we get out of debt. I hope someday we get church paid off. I hope someday we have a fellowship hall.

④ *SHARE THE BLESSING WITH OTHERS (HER 5 DKS). WHY DO YOU WANT TO GET WELL? OUT OF DEBT?*

The Proof God is able (v7)

Ephesians 3:20 "Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly

love all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us"

Look at verse 7- SHE PAID HER CREDITORS AND HAD ENOUGH LEFT TO LIVE ON REST OF LIFE. GOD DOES THINGS RIGHT. Can God solve our problems? Yes, and more.

Jacob (had Joseph and 2 grandsons)
God sent fire to Elijah that licked up...

God has been know to do more than we ask of him.

She proved God able

- God is able to provide Phil 4:19
- God is able to deliver Psa 50:15
- God is able to strengthen II Cor 12:9
- God is able to save Heb 7:25

- DIDNT CREATE THE PROBLEM HERSELF *(could have been better)*
- WILLING TO GO TO THE LORD
- WILLING TO BE OBEDIENT TO HIS PLAN *BLESSING FAITH*
- WILLING TO PARTICIPATE "GATHAN POTS (MANY)"
"GIVE OIL"
- ~~WILLING TO PARTICIPATE~~
- SHARE BLESSING WITH OTHERS