THE WIDOW’S OIL
2 Kings 4:1-7

MAIN THOUGHT You too can learn the source from whom all blessings flow.

INTRODUCTION – Elisha was not offered riches or promotion for saving Israel (Gen. 41:41-43; Dan. 2:48; 5:29; Eccles. 9:15); he returned to helping people.

THE COMPLAINT (1).
• Elisha’s ministry, like Elijah’s (1 Kings 17:9), was family oriented.
• Prophets, Apostles (1 Cor. 9:5), Priests (Ezek 44:22), Elders and Deacons (1 Tim. 3:2, 12) could be married (Heb. 13:4) as was this widow to a prophet.
• He was GODLY (1 Kings 19:18) but in debt – certainly not by luxurious living.
• The creditors could enslave her boys for up to seven years (Deut. 15:12).

THE INSTRUCTIONS (2-4).
1. ASK FOR HELP (Jam. 4:2) like the persistent widow (Luke 18:5). Certainly God helps the widow (Deut. 10:18; Psa. 68:5; 146:9).
2. TAKE INVENTORY – what do you have? “Nothing . . . except a little OIL.” Moses had only a ROD (Ex. 4:2); Peter had a NET (Luke 5:4-5); the lad had only a FIVE LOAVES AND TWO FISH (John 6:9); Moses (Ex. 4:1), Gideon (Jud. 6:15), and Jonah (Jonah 1:3) only had excuses.

3. PREPARE – by collecting empty containers from your neighbors like digging ditches for water (3:16) or fishing (Luke 5:6).
4. EXPECT MUCH – don’t ask for just a few (1 Chron. 4:10; Eph. 3:20).
5. BE PRIVATE (SHUT THE DOOR) – like Moses in Sinai for 40 years, Jesus for 30 years, and Paul for 3 years in Arabia and 11 years in Tarsus.

THE MIRACLE (5-7).
• OBEDIENCE – by faith, start pouring oil! Do not hoard your talent, gifts, or money, but use them for the Lord (1 Kings 17:15-16; Matt. 25:21).
• BELIEVE – that God can POUR OUT a blessing upon you (Mal. 3:10; Phil. 4:19).
• COOPERATE – working with others (1 Cor. 12:12; 3 John 8).
• ABUNDANCE – “according to your faith will it be done to you” (Matt. 9:29).
• RESULTS – She sold the oil to pay off her DEBT (Rom. 13:8) and then with the remainder she TASTED God’s goodness for herself (Psa. 34:8).

POSTSCRIPT
• Zechariah saw a golden LAMPSTAND with seven lights and channels flowing from a central bowl surrounded by two live olive trees (Zech. 4:1-3).
• Hannakah – the LAMPSTAND burned for eight days miraculously (164 BC).
• The Holy Spirit is the OIL (anointing) that keeps us shining (Luke 4:18).
• The church is the LAMPSTAND – the lighthouse to the community (Rev. 1:20).