



Sermon – 09/17/2023
Phillip Bethancourt

Verses Covered

Hebrews 11:1

2 Kings 4:1 – 7

Matthew 9:29

If you're a guest in the room, we want to welcome you. We are so thrilled you're here and I want to invite everybody to open your Bibles with me to 2 Kings, chapter 4. 2 Kings, chapter 4. And as we come to the text this morning, we know that we're right now in a big moment in the life of our church, building towards a crescendo next week with our Get in the Game commitment Sunday. And one of the things I want to remind you of as we launch this NEXT Initiative to ready ourselves for the next 100 years in the life of our church as we finish his first 100 years, is we're challenging each one of us to get in the game by supporting this financially. So, you'll notice in the seat back in front of you, we've got a Connect Card that looks, or a giving card, a commitment card, that looks just like this along with an envelope. And we'd like to invite you to take that home this week and to pray over that and to bring that back completed next week to make your commitment. And the reason we're doing this is because we want to take the Gospel to the next generation. And that's why over the last few weeks, we've been spending our time talking through the seven marks of a next generation Christian. We've talked about prayer. We've talked about legacy. Last week, we talked about generosity. And this week, we're going to talk about faith.

So, what is faith? Well, listen to the way that the author of Hebrews describes faith in Hebrews 11:1. He answers the question, what is faith in this way?

¹Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

To put it simply, faith means trusting God. No matter what circumstances we face, we have a deep trust in God's plan and His power so that no matter what gap we face between our problems and His promises, we know that He can carry us through. You see, when we think about faith, faith encompasses many things. There's a saving faith that each one of us need to be made right with God. And as we talk about bringing gifts for our NEXT Initiative, if you've never put your faith in Jesus, the best gift that you could ever give this church and His kingdom is to embrace that saving faith. To recognize that apart from Jesus, you can do nothing. That without Him, there's no hope of deliverance from sin. But in addition to that aspect of saving faith, the Bible also gives

us a picture of sustaining faith. The kind of faith that no matter our problems, they keep pressing on. The kind of faith that no matter our circumstances, we keep clinging to God. And that's the kind of faith we're going to see this morning in 2 Kings 4. And you may be wondering, what does faith have to do with being a next generation Christian. And to answer that question, let me ask you another one just by show of hands. How many of you adults in the room would say, it's harder to grow up as a child today than it was when you were a child. Would anybody agree with that? Okay, look around the room. Basically unanimous. Why is that? It's because we know we're living in a culture that is more hostile to our faith than ever before. We're living in a culture where technology and social media have taken off. Where those pulls towards comparison or depression or even suicide are pulling constantly at our children. And if we want to reach the next generation, our generation has to embrace a faith in Jesus that will sustain us even through the times of uncertainty. Even in the moments of hardship. Even when our hearts are not still. See, the widow we're about to read about in 2 Kings chapter 4, found herself in a similar situation. She was fearful about the next generation of her own family. And right here in this passage, we see God giving us a picture of the kind of sustaining faith that He's calling each one of us to embrace morning. So, let's pick up in the text. We're going to start in 2 Kings chapter 4 and down in verse 1. Here's what it says.

¹Now the wife of one of the sons of the prophets cried to Elisha, she said, "Your servant my husband is dead, and you know that your servant feared the LORD, but the creditor has come to take my two children to be his slaves." ²And Elisha said to her, "What shall I do for you? Tell me; what have you in the house?" And she said, "Your servant has nothing in the house except a jar of oil." ³Then he said, "Go outside, borrow vessels from all your neighbors, empty vessels and not too few." ⁴Then go in and shut the door behind yourself and your sons and pour into all these vessels. And when one is full, set it aside." ⁵So she went from him and shut the door behind herself and her sons. And as she poured they brought the vessels to her. ⁶When the vessels were full, she said to her son, "Bring me another vessel." And he said to her, "There is not another." Then the oil stopped flowing. ⁷She came and told the man of God, and he said, "Go, sell the oil and pay your debts, and you and your sons live on the rest."

So, here we are. 2 Kings chapter 4. God has just passed the baton of prophetic leadership in the life of Israel from Elijah, who's been taken up on in the whirlwind, to Elisha who's been given a double portion of God's Spirit. And Elisha's been at work amongst the people of God right before this. Both Judah and Israel have been in a battle against Moab. And we see in 2 Kings chapter 3 that they're in a desperate situation. They're fleeing from the enemy. They have no provision. They're by a dry river. And Elisha provides water for them. He gives them both a provision and a promise of victory. And right here in 2 Kings 4, we see him doing a similar thing for this widow woman. This gift of provision and this of victory even in the midst of uncertainty. What we're going to find this morning as we work our way through this second text in 2 Kings 4 is that the secret to embracing true faith in your life is to believe in a God who is bigger than the size of your problems. And what we're going to notice this morning is that true faith shows up in our lives even in our hardest moments in several ways. And you'll see the first one starting in verse 1. We see true faith overcomes our fears. True faith overcomes our fears. Now, if anyone had a reason for fear, it would be this widow in this situation. Look back at what it says in verse 1. It says,

¹Now the wife of one of the sons of the prophets cried to Elisha, she said, “Your servant my husband is dead, and you know that your servant feared the LORD, but the creditor has come to take my two children to be his slaves.”

You see, she hasn't just lost her husband; she's also lost her future. She can't provide for those that she owes the debt to. And in that culture, when you couldn't take care of your bills, then they took care of you. They brought you into slavery until that bill could be made, until that debt could be satisfied. So, she comes to Elisha. This one who is the prophet of God who would have known her husband that died, would have known them. Because as it says there, her family was from one of the sons of the prophets and she is in a desperate situation. And she comes to him as a representative of God Himself in deep need and God meets that deep need in response to her true faith. And if we want our faith to overcome our fears, we must diagnose our problems. You see, that's what she does with Elisha. So, she goes to him. She brings these problems to him in verse 1, not just because she he knows her family but because she believe that as the representative of God, he can do something on her behalf. She doesn't pretend as if her problems are less than they are. She realizes the significance of them. She feels that desperation. She's not in denial about her issues. Do you ever notice that that can be the temptation for us? We'd rather respond to our problems with denial than diagnosis. We try to be, not be us about the challenges we face because if we came face to face with those realities, we're not sure we can make it through. But the true faith that overcomes our fears begins with an honest assessment of where we are. And her situation was terrible. Which takes us to what happens in verse 2, we also see that if we want a faith that overcomes our fears, we must depend on God's power. So, notice how Elijah responds in verse 2 when he asked her two questions,

²“What shall I do for you? Tell me; what do you have in the house?” And she said, “Your servant has nothing in the house except a jar of oil.”

So, Elisha meets her in the middle of her mess with two powerful questions that all of us should be thinking about today. And the questions boiled down to this, what do you have? And what do you hope? So, that first, first question that he asked there when he when he says to her, what shall I do for you? That's that question of hope. What do you hope? What do you want to see? How do you want God to move? But then he also asked her, what do you have? What do you already possess? And I imagine in this moment when she's lost everything, her husband, she's about to lose her children as well, she may have thought in that moment in answer to that second question, what do you have? I have nothing. But perhaps she looks around that small house she's living in and over in the corner, strewn in the rubble, she sees that small jar of oil. With just a little bit of it remaining. And she brings it to him and says, “This is all I've got.” That's the kind of desperation she drives, she is driven to in this moment. And just think about why it is that God allows us into situations like this where our problems seem so great and our provisions seem so small. The reason is because He is revealing to us our weakness in the moment. Why? Because as the New Testament tells us, God's power is made perfect in our weakness. So, as she sees that all she has is this jar of oil, it's bringing her to the point of recognizing that she can't trust in herself. Her only hope to get out of the problem she's in is to depend on the power of God. And the reality for us this morning is that we are just like this widow. I don't know what problems you walked in here with today, but I imagine for some of you, you can't even get them out of your mind right now. And what can happen is we become so fixated on the problem that we lose sight of God's promise and provision. You see, she might have overlooked this oil. She might have missed the seed of

God's provision in her life. And we see that temptation pushing forward throughout the Bible. I mean, think about it. When Israel is standing across the valley from Goliath, they've got their eyes fixed on a big problem and they missed the seed of God's deliverance through David. Or when Jesus is gathered with 5,000 and the disciples are coming to Him saying, "The people are hungry. How are we going to provide?" They looked out at the problem of 5,000 people's hunger and they missed the first sign of the provision that God was going to use to multiply those loaves and those fishes. Have you spent so much time focusing on the problems of your life that you're missing the small seeds of God's provision even right now? When's the last time you went and checked for oil in your life? Because maybe God has placed something right there in your life. Something so small most people would overlook it and He's going to take that and multiply it just as He did here with this widow woman and provide you with a way forward so that your true faith can overcome your fears.

You see, the text keeps going down in verse 3 and we see a second mark of true faith picking up in that part of the passage. You see, true faith also obeys our Father. True faith obeys our Father. You see, Elisha meets this widow's problems with a plan. And if you and I were sitting through thinking about how might God show up and meet a problem, I'm not sure we would have come up with this plan. I mean, it would make it a lot more sense if Elisha said, "You know what? I just got paid this week. Take my money and we got you covered." Or maybe he would have given her the oil itself and said, "Hey, you don't need to go anywhere. I've got you. You go sell this. You're good." Or maybe we would have thought, "Hey, go to your neighbors and ask them for the full jars of oil and God will work on their hearts just to give it to you and you'll have what you need to sell." But that's not the way God works here. How does He work? He tells her to go and find a different path. Why? Because God is showing up in the middle of her mess calling her to obey her heavenly Father in such a way where only He is going to get the credit for what's about to happen. I mean, that's the way God works. He doesn't want to share His glory in the miracle. And so He works in a way that no one can explain except for to give it to His power and provision. And see, true faith obeys our Father first by finding His will. So, we see the way that His will is unfolded to her. There in verse three, look at what it says.

³Then he said, "Go outside, borrow vessels from all your neighbors, empty vessels and not too few. ⁴Then go in and shut the door behind yourself and your sons and pour into all these vessels. And when one is full, set it aside."

And this moment in her life reminds me of back when our family moved in 2013 to the Nashville, Tennessee area. And we, you know what it's like to move. You're surrounded by boxes as you first get there. We made a quick grocery store run. We were just going to pick up some basic food to tide this over for a few days and we got some cereal for our kids. We were able to find the bowls. We had the cereal and milk. But we, for the life of us, had no idea which one of the 800 boxes had the spoons. We were in a desperate situation. So, I walked out the front door. I started walking down a street I had never been on hunting for neighbors I hadn't yet met. And I came across a guy a few doors down named Jeff. And he had seen the moving trucks and so we had a warm exchange. And I said, "Hey, I'm sorry to bother you but is there any chance you've got some extra spoons we can borrow." And I can tell you, he was not expecting that question. But he was very glad to oblige us and he was willing to provide that for us. And I took that back to our home and we were able to use it. And it's like from that point on, he was always Jeff the spoon guy for me all 7 years we lived there because he stepped up in my moment of need. Now, think about

what this widow would have been doing. Going door to door, asking for these vessels, one after another. Now, you and I know, if one of those neighbors happened to have one of those huge Stanley mugs, she would have only needed one. But they didn't have those at the time. And so she had to keep collecting. She had to keep adding 'em and we don't know the details. We don't know how many there were. We don't know what kind. We don't know how people reacted whenever she requested it. But what we do know is that she found the will of God and she followed it. She did what the man of God commanded her to do regardless of what other people might have thought in the moment. And let's see what happens. Look back at verse 5. We see that true faith doesn't just find the will of God, we also see that it follows the word of our Father. So, notice in verse 5 what it does tell us about how she followed God's plan.

⁵So she went from him and shut the door behind herself and her sons. And as she poured they brought the vessels to her.

So, maybe some of you have noticed this table over here, you might even recognize it if you've been around this church long enough. We dug back into our Easter pageant supplies and pulled out some of our bowls, our containers, our vessels. Perhaps these would have looked of a similar kind to the ones that she had gathered up. And so, she goes from house to house and place to place and she pulls those into her home. She closes the doors. She's there with her sons. And she takes that small container of oil that's just got that small touch. And she begins to pour into each one of them over and over again. And the craziest thing happens in this moment. Even though there's so little and even though she's filling jar after vessel after container, it never dries up. It just keeps coming. They just keep pouring jar after jar after jar until every one of them is complete. God takes that small seed of provision and He multiplies it to meet the measure of their faith. And it reminds me in the moment of another story we see in the New Testament when Jesus is engaging with two blind men in Matthew 9. They find Him on the roadway and they cry out to Him. Jesus, help us. Heal us from our eyesight. And He asked them, "Do you truly believe that you can be healed?" And when they say yes to Him, listen to what Jesus says in Matthew 9:29 to these two men who cry out for help. He says, it says,

²⁹Then he touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith be it done to you."

You hear that? According to your faith. God meets those blind men and heals them to the measure of their faith. He meets this widow woman and provides to her up to the measure of her faith. And what I know about our church during this season as we launch this NEXT Initiative, is over these first 100 years God has been meeting us according to the measure of our faith and filling up the bowls with the oil we couldn't provide ourself. I mean, I just think about our story. When we started back in 1925 in the Brazos County Courthouse with 81 people, we had no place of our own. And we launched our first fundraising campaign later that year for the grand total of \$3,800. That's a lot easier than \$5 million today, huh? In order to provide that land that we would build on. And then not long after that, \$12,900 so that we could build our first building. Our people brought the vessels of their resources and guess what happened? God filled this church with oil. When we bought land on Coulter Drive, eight acres in 1949 and built the facilities that we were in for about 50 years, our people brought the vessels and God filled it with oil. 20 years ago, when we moved to this location and God provided us this 112 acres and this miracle of hope that we have right here at this intersection, we brought the vessels and God brought the oil. And I'm trusting that God's about to do it again through this NEXT Initiative to ready us for this season to come. You see,

God hasn't just been providing through our finances over these years. He's also been providing through our faithfulness. So, right here, I brought with me this morning the program from the 25th anniversary worship service of our church from back in 1950. Amazing. One of our people kept that and brought it to me to see it. And as you look in here, you can read all about the hymns and the events and experiences that were going on. But there's one sentence on the back, 25 years in the life of our church, that I haven't been able to shake all week. Here's what it says.

From this church, many preachers, missionaries, and religious workers have gone out. In that first 25 years, we had already launched a legacy of faithfulness that culminated in a legacy of service here in our, in our community and sending to the nations.

It's captured there. And as we think about what's next for us, yes, God wants us to come together and to gather our financial resources to fuel the mission forward. But even more than our finances, He wants our faithfulness. He wants us to bring the vessel of our commitment, of our service. And even if it's small, we're trusting He's going to multiply it and to fill it up. You see, there's something you might have overlooked as we read this passage back in verse 3 because it carries an important lesson for all of us. You see, when we obey our Father, we all get to play a role in God's plan. I mean, look at what it says there.

³Then he said, “Go outside, borrow vessels from all your neighbors, empty vessels and not too few.

You see, this plan to perform the miracle in the life of this widow in 2 Kings 4 was a community project. He says, go to all your neighbors. He says, bring back vessels that are not too few. Everyone had a role to play there. It was Elisha telling the plan. The widow and her sons walking faithfully through the plan. These people that didn't even understand all that was going to happen contributing to the plan. Everyone had a role to play in providing for the miracle. And that same reality is true as we're in this NEXT Initiative. God wants all of us to jump in. He wants all of us to bring the vessels. And I want to remind you why we have this kind of urgency. So, up on the screen, I want you to remember a picture I've shown to most of you before of our projected growth right now in our student ministry. We got a graph that you'll see here. And as you know, one of our first priorities is to renovate our student space. And the need for that is because starting last year and moving over the next three years during that four-year window, we're projecting a growth of over 50% in our student ministry. And I want you to think about what's happened in the life of our church. Our preschool and kids ministry grew and so we built our kids building in order to minister to them and to reach them and to change the lives of people by the power of the Gospel just like the two Mader twins that were baptized this morning. But now as those kids have grown and those vessels have been filled, God's calling us to bring new vessels that He can fill those as well to keep working, to keep changing our situation for the sake of the Savior. You see, I can't help but wonder, if the town heard about this miracle later on, if there might have been people that when that widow or her sons came and asked for jars, they said, “I don't have any jars for you. Doesn't seem like a big enough deal. I don't really get what's going on.” Guess what? Even though some may have said, no, that didn't stop the miracle of God. It didn't hold Him back from achieving His purposes. It didn't stop Him from moving His mission forward. All it meant is that when the miracle happened, they missed the moment. God wants every one of us to jump in just like so many jumped in right here in 2 Kings 4.

Which takes us to the last thing I want you to notice here in verses 6 and 7. Another mark of true faith. True faith orchestrates our future. Yeah, I got a friend that uses a saying. Some of you might have heard me mention it before that big doors turn on small hinges. And the idea is that the big moments, the big things that shape our lives often happen in small moments. And in the same way a big door turns on small hinges, often, there are hinge moments in our life that to everyone else may seem small but God uses them in a big way. And is there any smaller kind of moment than what we see described here? One desperate widow in one far-off town, in a story that was probably being written over and over again in that culture as they were under oppression and threat of war. And yet behind those closed doors, a big door turned on a small hinge. And what we find here is that God was orchestrating her future in a way that through her true faith, she was able to embrace in a way that reshaped not just that moment but a lifetime. So, think about how her true faith changes her moment. You'll see it in verse 6.

⁶When the vessels were full, she said to her son, "Bring me another vessel." And he said to her, "There is not another." Then the oil stopped flowing.

So, look at the text. Which runs out first? Is it the vessels? Or the oil? It's the vessels. And why is that important? It's because God had more to give. In fact, He had abundantly more than she could've asked or imagined. But as they had the faith to bring the jars, there was ultimately a time where they probably thought, "Man, we're good." Or, "We don't see how we can get any other jars." And their faith hit a ceiling. And in this moment, God shows that His provision was ready to go beyond even their faith. And that changes her in the moment. When she sees every one of those jars filled, when she pitches them up to the brim and she knows what that means for her provision. It changes her in the moment. She stepped forward in true faith and God met her there in a way that was a hinge moment in her life. But look back at the text. What we find is that it doesn't just change her in the moment. It changes her for a lifetime. You see in verse 7, the way it talks about it. Where it says.

⁷She came and told the man of God, and he said, "Go, sell the oil and pay your debts, and you and your sons can live on the rest."

So, God doesn't just provide a way forward for her that meets those debts in the moment, He provides for her for a lifetime. That's why at the end of verse 7, it says, take the extra and live on the rest. He goes beyond her request. He does more than she asked for. And He's the one that provides it in a way that changes her and shapes her. He doesn't just secure her freedom from her creditors, He sets her up for her future. It's reminded me of a family this week. I was talking with them after last week's message on generosity. Maybe if you were here, you remember that on these stairs right behind me, we had several labels and we talked about a generosity ladder that God is calling each of us to take a step from being potential givers to occasional givers to faithful givers to sacrificial givers. And this particular family, as they were looking at it, they recognized we would fit that faithful category. That over the years, we've been tithing our first and best back to God. But as they were processing through it, the Lord laid on their heart a desire to move to that sacrificial stage, to give over and above. And they talked about it that Sunday after church and the Lord challenged them and they settled on an over and above gift that was going to stretch them financially but they wanted to walk in true faith to step into it. Well, the next day, one of them was at work and they picked up the phone and called their spouse and said, "You'll never believe this. I was looking at the financial numbers from this month and our business has grown

so much that that gap we thought we were going to have in our sacrificial give, giving, now, I'm already seeing the way the Lord could step in and meet it." Now, think about this. This is not some prosperity Gospel thing where they put their faith in God on Sunday and then, He stepped up with the blessing on Monday. No, here's what happened. Those numbers, that growth, that additional resource, that was already coming. They just didn't know it yet. God had been making the way, preparing the way in advance so that when they responded to Him in faith, He could meet them in that moment and change them in their generosity for a lifetime. It's one of the reasons I want you to look at these these commitment cards that are in your seat back with me for just a second. These are real simple and straightforward. On one side of them, we've got a guide that's here for you. You can also see this up on the screen. It'll give you some next steps we want you to take. It'll help you budget things out and know what it is that you can give. But there's really three things we're asking you to do. We're asking you to turn in one of these cards per family next week. We're asking you to fill out every line that's on here from top to bottom. We want to challenge you to take this card and place it in this envelope along with your first fruit offering, whatever you're going to provide to launch us into what's next, and place that and bring it next week in order to provide. So, to give you an example, I want you to see on the screen what it might look like. I'm using my fictional friend, and many of you know Chuck Bestor, our Administrator, our fictional friend is Buck Chester, okay? And you notice his phone number, 867-5309. Little throwback for you. But you'll notice there, he gives his initial offering of \$1,000. He says he's going to contribute \$9,000 additional dollars over the next two years which he's going to give monthly in increments of \$375 for a total gift of \$10,000. We're asking you to prayerfully consider what the Lord is leading you to do to include your family members, your kids, in that effort. And why is that the case? Well, look back at the end of verse 7 when it says there, you can live on the rest. God is speaking that same word to us. That when we put Him first, and we respond to Him in true faith, we can live on the rest. And the reason we know that is true for us financially is because that is true spiritually. You see, every one of us finds ourself in an even worse situation than this widow. She is in deep debt financially. She can never recover on her own. She knows that she's about to have to give her family over to the creditors and all she's got is this small oil with no hope of providing and paying off the debt that she owes. But in an even greater way, the Bible teaches us that every one of us faces an even more significant spiritual debt before God. We have sinned and fallen short of His glory. The wages of that sin is death. And we have a debt that we cannot pay and we don't even have a small amount of oil to our name. We've got nothing but filthy rags. There's nothing we can do on our own to make the payment for that sin, to receive the forgiveness and the freedom that we desire. So, what does God do? God sends His Son, Jesus, as a new and better Elisha who fulfills what the prophet Elisha does in a greater way. Not just to provide for the needs of this widow but to provide for the needs of salvation. So, the prophet Elisha comes, the man of God with the, endowed with the double filling of the Spirit and he cleanses lepers. He heals the sick. He even raises the dead. He fills these jars with oil and he's pointing forward to One who's to come, the son of God, the prophet who would come and receive the Holy Spirit is a dove at His baptism. Who would cleanse the lepers, who would heal the sick, who would raise Lazarus from the dead, who would turn not empty jars into oil but water into wine. And He would come as the Messiah, the anointed one. The one upon whom the oil of God's satisfaction rested. And He goes to that cross for you and me. And you know you don't deserve it. You feel that guilt and that shame weighing you down. That regret that you have and you are helpless before a holy God. But in His kindness, He made a way where there was no way. And He invites you into that relationship to quit trying to pay the debt yourself.

To quit trying to fill up the jar with oil that you can't create. And instead to put your true saving faith in Jesus in a way that would transform your life forever.

You'll see on the screen a picture of a man named Roy Holeman. Roy Holeman was the first pastor of our church back in 1925. The Lord brought him here with his young wife and the Lord blessed this church in amazing ways starting with 81 and growing by hundreds in the first few years of the church. But when 1929 hit and the great depression loomed and became much more difficult for the church but they weathered it well. In fact, I was looking through this book right here. It records all the minutes of the meetings in the early times of our church. And you could read the church meeting from April 1931 when one of our deacons said, April 1930, where one of our deacons said that we had reached the high peak of our church's existence. I mean, they didn't even have air conditioning yet. That's not a high peak if you ask me. I'm just saying. But they're on this mountain top. Things are going great. And what he didn't realize is all that would happen within just the next year. Because as the depression took hold and people's resources dried up, they got exactly a year later in April of 1931 and to their name, the bank account of Central Church only had \$0.47. Just a little bit of oil. And it only got worse from there. Just a few months later, in December of that year, Roy Holeman's wife passed away unexpectedly. And then the finances continued to deteriorate to one point, they were in over \$300 of debt. And the question at the end of the month wasn't any longer, "Can we pay our bills?" But it was, "Which bills are we going to choose to pay because we can't pay em all." And so they made cuts. They made choices. They had just a little bit of oil and they were pleading with God to fill up the vessel. And what happened? We saw Roy Holleman and the people of that church respond with true faith. In the midst of all the cuts that they made, you know one of the things they refused to cut? They refused to stop paying and supporting their missionaries. That was the priority. In fact, things got so bad in the life of the church that most months, Pastor Holeman was taking half his salary or no salary at all. I mean, think about this. The man's lost his wife. He's not sure how he's going to make ends meet. But he looked to a faithful God with true faith. And he saw that small bit of oil and trusted that God could keep filling up the vessel. And God's inviting us into that same story during this NEXT Initiative season. Just like they brought the oil and He filled the vessels and sustained them. Even in those darkest times to set them up for the next chapter, He's doing the same today. And the call of 2 Kings chapter 4 for every one of us, bring the oil and trust the God will fill the vessels.

Will you pray with me?

Father, we know that apart from You, we can do nothing. So, in this moment, we're laying this season down at our feet. Unless You move, we don't want to move. Unless You provide, we don't want to move forward. And Lord, I pray for every one of us. I don't know the situations that people are wrestling with, the challenges that they're going through, but I know that You do, God. And I'm asking You to meet them in their mess, to give them hope in this time of hardship, to help them to see the the small amount of oil You've already provided for them. So that they can watch the miracle of Your multiplication in their life. Would You bring a breakthrough. And within that, God, if there are people in this room who have never surrendered and given their life to Jesus, would You open up their hearts today? Would You show us our need of salvation? Would You show us Your invitation to join You in the miracle of the work that You're going to do, not just now but in the century ahead. But we're trusting You. We're laying out all of it at Your feet because You alone are worthy. We pray these things in Christ's name. Amen