

Bible Discussion 22 Provision and Promise

Text: 2 Kings 2:4-17

Purpose: To be faithful to God with our resources trusting that He will provide all that we need.

Opening Question: 2 Kings 4:1

Elisha is the successor to Elijah, he spent 7-8 years as the prophet's protégé until Elijah went to heaven. Elisha served as an advisor to kings, he was an advocate for common people and reached out to both Israel and foreigners. His miracles often resembled Jesus' miracles and demonstrated God's power and willingness to provide for people. This widow is the wife of a prophet who has passed away leaving her in desperate circumstances. Her husband's calling and sacrifice to God left them in a problematic financial situation.

1. *If you were this widow, how would you respond to God after losing a loved one and now living in the repercussions of their sacrifice to God? (angry, confused, hopeful, resentful, faithful, etc)*
2. *When was a time that you sacrificed for God and it hurt? What did it feel like?*
3. *Does God always promise immediate reward for sacrificing and giving to Him? Does He promise reward for those who sacrifice?*

Read and Discuss: 2 Kings 4:2-4

The widow was in debt and in accordance with Mosaic Law, the creditor could enslave the debtor and their children until the Year of Jubilee in order to work off a debt. The creditor plans to enslave her two sons. Elisha looks at what this woman currently has. The only resource she has is a small flask of oil (for anointing the body).

4. *What are some of the gifts, abilities, resources you currently have that God could use for His kingdom? (leadership, hospitality, service, your time, money, knowledge, wisdom, etc)*
5. *What obstacles hold you back from leaning in to serving opportunities? (don't believe you could make a difference, fear of losing resources, too busy, fear of failing, etc.)*

Read and Discuss: 2 Kings 4:5-7

The widow shut the door and began pouring the oil into the jars until all the jars were full. God filled all of the jars she had. Elisha instructs her to sell the jars of oil so she could pay off her debt.

6. *In the midst of your challenges or difficult situations how do you stay focused on what God can do and not what you can do? (remembering the bible, continued prayer, engage with others who are faithful, etc.)*
7. *What are some of the ways God has provided for you in the past?*