

Christmas in my hometown

Part 2 • December 14, 2025 | Pastor Jason Smotherman

THE MIRACLE IS ALREADY HERE

2 KINGS 4:1-7 (NKJV)

¹A certain woman of the wives of the sons of the prophets cried out to Elisha, saying, "Your servant my husband is dead, and you know that your servant feared the Lord. And the creditor is coming to take my two sons to be his slaves." ²So Elisha said to her, "What shall I do for you? Tell me, what do you have in the house?" And she said, "Your maid servant has nothing in the house but a jar of oil." ³Then he said, "Go, borrow vessels from everywhere, from all your neighbors—empty vessels; do not gather just a few. ⁴And when you have come in, you shall shut the door behind you and your sons; then pour it into all those vessels, and set aside the full ones." ⁵So she went from him and shut the door behind her and her sons, who brought the vessels to her; and she poured it out. ⁶Now it came to pass, when the vessels were full, that she said to her son, "Bring me another vessel." And he said to her, "There is not another vessel." So the oil ceased. ⁷Then she came and told the man of God. And he said, "Go, sell the oil and pay your debt; and you and your sons live on the rest."

A woman comes to Elisha in absolute desperation. Her husband, who was a prophet had died.

Note: Prophet doesn't mean psychic or only a future teller. Some prophets in scripture had the gifting to do that. It doesn't mean they were perfect. This Prophet was poor. He was faithful, but when he died his family was in trouble. Sometimes God gives insight to future events to a prophet. Largely, to be a prophet means a person who speaks on behalf of God.

Her husband was a Man of God. She's drowning in debt. And the creditors are coming to take her two sons as slaves. This woman has lost her husband and is about to lose her children. Feels like she's losing her past, present, and future.

The first thing she says to Elisha is: Your servant my husband is dead and the creditor is coming.

Translation: I don't have anything left. I have nothing to offer. I have run out. I'm empty.

1: DESPERATION BROUGHT HER TO GOD BUT HONOR OPENED THE DOOR

Just like Naaman (we talked about last week), she came to the man of God for help. Naaman came with position. He was a general. Prestigious and important. This woman didn't have position she had pain. Naaman came with military honor. This woman comes with bills and brokenness.

Both needed to learn the same lesson: Sometimes God answers your desperation with a simple instruction not a dramatic demonstration.

She didn't get a prayer meeting. She didn't get a prophecy. She didn't get a fireworks miracle. She got a question. The power of a probing question. Jesus did this well. He usually answered questions with a question.

SOME EXAMPLES:

1. "Why don't your disciples fast?" Matthew 9:14

Jesus responds with a question: "Can the wedding guests mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them?" Matthew 9:15

2. "Who is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven?" Matthew 18:1

Jesus responds with a question: "What were you arguing about on the road?" Mark 9:33

3. "By what authority are You doing these things?" Mark 11:28

Jesus responds with a question: "Was John's baptism from heaven or from men?" Mark 11:30

4. "Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" Mark 12:14

Jesus responds with a question: "Whose image is on the coin?" Mark 12:16

5. "Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders?" Matthew 15:2

Jesus responds with a question: "And why do you break God's command for the sake of your tradition?" Matthew 15:3

6. "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Mark 10:17

Jesus responds with a question: "Why do you call Me good?" Mark 10:18

7. "Who is my neighbor?" Luke 10:29

Jesus responds with a question (after the parable): "Which of these was a neighbor to the man?" Luke 10:36

2: THE QUESTION THAT REVEALS EVERYTHING

Elisha doesn't say, "What do you wish you had?" "What did your husband leave behind?" "What can we go buy?" "What do you lack?"

He asks, "What do you have in your house?" In other words, the miracle isn't coming from outside.

It's not coming from the palace. It's not coming from the marketplace. It's not coming from someone else's resource. God already placed the seed of your miracle inside your house. Just like Naaman.

Naaman wanted dramatic. God said, Jordan.

The widow wanted deliverance. God said, what's already there?

3: SHE ALMOST MISSED HER MIRACLE BECAUSE IT LOOKED TOO SMALL

Her answer is heartbreakingly revealing, "Your servant has nothing... except a little oil."

She almost dismissed the one thing God planned to use. She called "NOTHING" what God called "ENOUGH"

A lot of people in Nazareth did the same with Jesus. "Isn't this the carpenter?" "Isn't this Mary's son?" They looked at Him and said, "That's nothing." But heaven looked at Him and said, "That's everything." Never underestimate what God can do with a little. A little oil, a little faith, a little obedience, a little worship, a little surrender.

4: GOD USES EMPTY VESSELS NOT IMPRESSIVE ONES

Elisha gives her an instruction. "Go borrow vessels, not a few." Notice, he didn't tell her to borrow oil. He told her to borrow emptiness.

Why? Because God doesn't pour into full things. He fills emptiness. He fills surrender. He fills space that honor creates.

Naaman had to empty his pride in the Jordan. This widow had to empty her house of excuses.

Where there is no capacity, there is no miracle.

This is why busyness is killing most of our miracles. Where there is no availability for God to move, He won't move. He moves in empty and open spaces where a person invites Him.

5: THE MIRACLE DIDN'T HAPPEN IN THE STREET, IT HAPPENED IN THE SECRET PLACE

Elisha says, "Shut the door behind you." God was teaching her, "You don't need approval to see breakthrough." "You don't need an audience for a miracle." "You don't need a crowd to validate my power."

Nazareth had a crowd and very few miracles. This widow had a closed door and unstoppable oil.

Familiarity shuts down power. Honor makes room for it. If it's truly about chasing HIM, you will chase Him anywhere, especially in the Secret Place.

6: HER OBEDIENCE ACTIVATED THE OUTPOURING

The text says, "She poured out." As long as there was a vessel, as long as there was space, as long as there was expectation, the oil kept flowing.

The oil didn't flow because she cried. The oil didn't flow because she complained. The oil didn't flow because she was desperate. The oil flowed because she obeyed.

Naaman dipped seven times. The widow poured until the last jar.

God doesn't bless potential, He blesses obedience.

Obedience leads to the openness that God blesses. As long as you fill your life with disobedience, the space for blessing remains occupied.

7: THE FLOW STOPPED WHEN THE VESSELS STOPPED

This is one of the most sobering lines in the whole passage, "When there were no more vessels, the oil stopped flowing."

Not because God ran out. Not because the miracle had a limit. Not because heaven dried up.

The miracle stopped because her capacity stopped. The miracle was never the oil. The miracle was the empty space she created for God to fill.

This is a warning to believers, churches, cities:

If we lose hunger, if we lose honor, if we lose expectation, if we grow familiar, the oil stops.

Not because God stops being God but because we stop making room.

8: WHAT SHE STARTED IN OBEDIENCE, GOD FINISHED IN OVERFLOW

Elisha tells her, "Go, sell the oil, and pay your debts...and you and your sons can live on the rest."

God didn't just meet the need He exceeded it. He restored her household. He preserved her sons. He gave her a future.

And it all started with something she thought was insignificant: "a little oil."

EPHESIANS 3:20 NKJV

Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,

The power that works in us, is made available through an open space caused by obedience.