

## Unpacking the Preach

Date: 27th June 2021  
Sermon Title: The Widow's Oil  
Bible Passage: 2 Kings 4: 1 - 7

### **Recapping the Preach**

The story was told in a narrative style from the perspective of the two boys in the story. Take a moment to read the story again from several translations.

- What stood out to you in this story?
- How would summarise the main teaching point or application for us today, as a church and individually?
- The story is very similar to the story of Elijah in 1 Kings 17:7-24. What are the similarities and differences?

Stu began by describing the low moment that the boys had suddenly reached in life experiencing the death of their father, the debt of their parents and destitution of the family.

- We all experience 'low moments' in life for a variety of different reasons. When they come your way are you naturally inclined to fight or flight, pray & fast, whinge & moan, suck it up or work like crazy to get things in order? Why do you think this is?
- Re-read the widow's cry to Elisha - do you think she was being vague in her cry? Is there a hint of blame or accusation in her voice?
- Elisha didn't just 'fix' her problem by speaking to the creditor or collecting the jars and oil himself, he involved her in the process getting her to do the work. What do you think is the significance of this? How might this inform the way we carry one another burdens (Galatians 6:2)?
- The woman and her sons needed to ask the community to help her by giving her empty jars. Putting yourself in her place, how easy would you find it to ask for help? What is it that stops you asking others for help?

Stu made three points to close: 1) God is our provider and He knows our need and will provide for us 2) It doesn't matter how small or insignificant our resources are, when they are placed in the hands of the omnipotent God who created and sustains all things, great and mighty things can happen 3) There is no end to God's provision.

- What are some of the ways that God has provided for you (perhaps in ways you didn't expect)?
- Is there an aspect of God's provision you are praying for now or for others close to you?

### **Response**

- Is there anything from the preach and passage that you will be taking away to reflect on or work on?
- How can we apply the lessons from this story to our life: individually and together as a church?

### **Prayer pointers**

- Take time to share prayer requests and pray for one another.
- Pray that God would help us to live a life of faith and obedience to Him.
- Pray that we would be bold to take the opportunities to bring our 'little' and place it in the hands of an omnipotent God.

**Additional resources:**

If you need some additional resources the below websites are useful:

- <https://www.gotquestions.org>
- <https://enduringword.com>
- <https://www.biblica.com>
- <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/>