

BRINGING YOUR EMPTY EARTHEN VESSELS TO HIM

ROBERT PERSAUD

The account of the widow's need in the book of 2 Kings 4:1-7 is very touching. She was devastated by the loss of her husband, who was a faithful servant to the prophet Elisha. The burden of indebtedness became more severe and, her two sons were at the risk of becoming slaves to the creditors.

This is a very sad state of affairs for anyone, needless to say, a poor widow who is surviving at a subsistence level. In her desperation, she went to the prophet Elisha and outlined her problem to him. The man of God asked her a simple question, “*What can I do for you? What do you have in your house?*” Her reply was most astounding, “*All I have is a pot of oil.*” The little that we have is significant as long as God is recognized in our lives.

In the circumstances, she was advised to borrow as many vessels as she could from as many people as possible. She was further instructed to gather her two children together and shut the door in the house. Then, she began the exercise of pouring out the oil from the one jar into the others. As an act of faith and obedience, she complied and acted upon

the instructions from Elisha. God supernaturally intervened and provided the excess oil to fill the jars that were empty in her house. The important lesson here is to bring our empty earthen vessels to the Lord, He will fill us to overflowing so we can minister to others. This miracle is a wonderful expression of simple faith and obedience. She reported the results to the prophet. God made a way where there was no way, and she could sell the oil and repay her debts. I appreciate the common phrase, “Little is much when God is in it.”

The widows and the orphans are very close to God's heart and are considered special to Him. Psalms 68:5 indicates, “*A father of the fatherless and the judge of the widows is God in his holy habitation.*”

Our Responsibility To The Widows In The Church

One of the functions of the church is to support widows within the assembly. Especially when they are destitute and in need. Sometimes our widows are neglected by their families and loved ones. However, it is their families' responsibility

primarily to take care of the widow. In 1 Timothy 5:16 we see that, *“If any man or woman that believeth have widows, let them relieve them, and let not the church be charged; that it may be relieved them that are widows indeed.”* It is amazing how God will always provides for His widows. The spiritual, social, physical and psychological needs of the widows are met in Christ. We are given the opportunity as members of the body of Christ to reach out to our widows, offering them our help and encouragement.

The book of James pinpoints our responsibility before God, especially for the widows. *“Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world”* (James 1:27).

These are the words of the famous hymn Bring Your Vessels, Not A Few written by Mrs. C.H. Morris.

Are you looking for the fullness
Of the blessing of the Lord
In your heart and life today?
Claim the promise of your Father,
Come according to His Word,
In the blessed old time way.

Refrain

He will fill your heart today to overflowing,
As the Lord commandeth you,
Bring your vessels, not a few.
He will fill your heart today to overflowing
With the Holy Ghost and power.

Bring your empty earthen vessels,
Clean thro’ Jesus’ precious Blood,
Come, ye needy, one and all;
And in human consecration
Wait before the throne of God,

Till the Holy Ghost shall fall.

Like the cruise of oil unfailing
Is His grace forever more,
And His love unchanging still;
And according to His promise
With the Holy Ghost and power,
He will every vessel fill.

The Ministry Of Widows

The churches are ever grateful for the many women, who stand in the gap like pillars, in their prayers and intercessions. This is a vital ministry that connects and supports us all within the body of Christ. The unseen, the unheard and the unknown are realms of the Spirit that can only be reached through prayers and intercessions.

The widows who are most often older women have a distinct advantage of imparting the pure doctrine and sound principles necessary in the home. Their experiences in life serve as a lifelong tool for young women, teenagers, and children. This is an area in which the local elders can benefit from such a teaching ministry. The Scriptures mention Lois and Eunice, who were the grandmother and mother of young Timothy. Timothy benefited from such godly influence in his life. The apostle Paul observed and commented on this fact in 1 Timothy 1:5 *“When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.”*

Such wonderful ministries of the widows can provide an illustrative picture of the pouring out of the oil from one specific jar to fill other jars. These are the days of Elisha, and God is pouring out His blessings to others via the ministries of the poor and humble widows. They are poor in their spirit and humble in their walk with the Master. †



This morning God reminded me of the song, “Take Time To Be Holy.” The message of this song seems to be so appropriate for this day and for this hour. We think that we don’t have time for devotions, but I have long felt God

confirming to me that we need to spend time with Him each and every day.

Sometimes we think that we have so much to do that we

can't spare the time to spend with our heavenly Father. I have found the exact opposite. When I spend time with God, He seems to make up the time to us because He helps us that much more during the day. As it has been said, "You can never out give the Lord!"

When we don't spend time with God, we may do things that either waste time, don't have to be done, or have to be done over again. Regardless of the reason, our time is not well spent when we don't spend time with God before our day begins.

God's word is very clear about spending time with Him regularly, and I have included some scriptures after each verse of this song. May God grant us eyes to see, and ears to hear, and a heart that will understand what He is saying to His people in this day and in this hour! May we take time to be holy, each and every day. In Jesus name, amen!

To me, the following verses of this song and the scriptures encourage us to not rush, and not run here and there, but rather we should slow down and spend time with Him.

Verse 1

Take time to be holy, speak oft with thy Lord;
Abide in Him always, and feed on His Word.
Make friends with God's children,
Help those who are weak;
Forgetting in nothing His blessing to seek.

We have a relationship with God and just as we would talk with a family member or a close friend, we should be in frequent contact with our heavenly Father. We need His fellowship, presence, anointing, and so much more. When we spend time with Him He bestows to us those things that we need.

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matthew 6:33, KJV).

"Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me" (John 15:4, KJV).

"Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees; And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed" (Hebrews 12:12-13, KJV).

Verse 2

Take time to be holy, the world rushes on;
Spend much time in secret with Jesus alone
By looking to Jesus, like Him thou shalt be;
Thy friends in thy conduct His likeness shall see.

The words of the next verse of this song are so accurate. The

words "the world rushes on" describe how the world and us in it, seem to be spinning faster and faster, arguably more and more out of control. We know that God has all things under His control, and I believe that He wants us to have alignment with His control.

"For unto the angels hath he not put in subjection the world to come, whereof we speak. But one in a certain place testified, saying, What is man, that thou art mindful of him? or the son of man, that thou visitest him? Thou madest him a little lower than the angels; thou crownedst him with glory and honour; and didst set him over the works of thy hands: Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under him. But now we see not yet all things put under him. But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man" (Hebrews 2:5-9, KJV).

"See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord" (Ephesians 5:15-19, KJV).

"Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is" (1 John 3:2, KJV).

"Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Mark 5:14-16, KJV).

Verse 3

Take time to be holy, let Him be thy Guide;
And run not before Him, whatever betide.
In joy or in sorrow, still follow thy Lord,
And looking to Jesus, still trust in His word.

In verse three, we see how God is our guide through life. When we take time with Him, we can hear His voice, and we desire to follow His leading. He helps us discern His will from our will, and He gives us the strength, courage, and wisdom to do His will.

"And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice" (John 10:4, KJV).

"Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith;

who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God” (Hebrews 12:2, KJV).

Verse 4

Take time to be holy, be calm in thy soul;
Each tho't and each motive beneath His control.
Thus led by His Spirit to fountains of love;
Thou soon shall be fitted for service above.

In the fourth verse, we see God's recipe for peace. If we take time with God, we receive peace in our soul. We also become aligned to Him as we get ourselves in submission to His spirit. Finally, our lives are shaped so that we will fit into what He is doing in the earth today.

“Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:6-7, KJV).

“Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ” (2 Corinthians 10:5).

“If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit” (Galatians 5:25, KJV).

“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God” (Romans 8:14, KJV).

“Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit” (Ephesians 2:19-22, KJV).

Take Time To Be Holy
By William Longstaff

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SHARON STAR

The Sharon Star is a monthly publication and mailed as a free-will offering plan. The articles within are intended for inspiration and information to those who are interested in the unfolding revelation of the Word of God.

Published by:
Global Missions Inc. in North Battleford, Saskatchewan, Canada.

The Sharon Star is found online at:
www.globalmissionsinc.org/sharon-star

Publications Mail Agreement 40012206

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