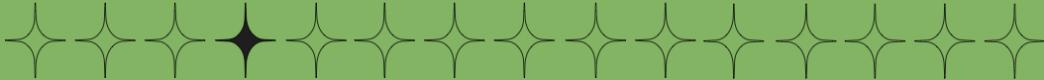


Jan. 20 & 21, 2024

NEW YEAR, NEW OIL BREAK- THROUGH

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Community Bible Church

Sermon Discussion Questions: Jan 21, 2024

Pastor Ed Newton

Title: New Year, New Oil

Text: 2 Kings 4:1-7

Target: The overflow of God's anointing over your life is determined by what you're willing to empty from your life.

I. **The Devastation of Loss:** "Now the wife of one of the sons of the prophets cried to Elisha, "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." (Vs. 4:1)

- A. **Death has Come:** "your servant my husband is dead" (Vs. 1)
- B. **Debt was Owed:** "the creditor has come" (Vs. 1)

II. **The Desperation in Lack:** "And 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" (Vs. 4:2)

- A. **Obligation to meet a Need:** "What shall I do for you?" (Vs. 2) *James 1:27
- B. **Consideration of what to Sell:** "what have you in the house?" (Vs. 2)
- C. **Realization of what you Have:** "nothing in the house except a jar of oil" (Vs. 2)

Question #1: The book of James begins by urging us to embrace the growth that arises from trials and challenges. *How do you think God utilizes difficult experiences to instill humility, fortify us, and realign the priorities of our hearts? Can you think of any examples from your own life?*

III. **The Determination to Look:** "Then he said, "Go outside, borrow vessels from all your neighbors, empty vessels and not too few." (Vs. 4:3)

- A. **Face your Fear:** "Go outside" (Vs. 3)
- B. **Find Favor:** "borrow vessels from all your neighbors, (Vs. 3)

C. Faith over Foolishness: “empty vessels and not too few” (Vs. 3)

Question #2: How do you believe that determination, faith, and the courage to confront fears impact outcomes and guide us through challenging times? In the story, can you pinpoint instances where the affected family exhibited faith, humility, and trust in God?

IV. **The Direction to Lock:** “Then 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.” (Vs. 4:4)

- A. **Secret of Solitude:** “So she went from him and shut the door” (Vs.4:5)
- B. **Obedience created Outpouring:** “And as she poured they brought the vessels to her” (Vs. 4:5)
- C. **Emptiness is Essential:** “When the vessels were full, she said to her son, “Bring me another vessel.” (Vs. 4:6a)
- D. **No Vessels, No Oil:** “There is not another.” **Then the oil stopped flowing.** (Vs. 4:6b)

Question #3: Consider how the widow's final quantity of oil was determined by the faith she demonstrated in gathering vessels. Do you think the outcomes in our lives, whether in situations or pursuits, are constrained by the level of faith we invest in them? If so, in what ways? Explain your reasoning.

V. **The Demonstration of Love:** “She 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.” (Vs. 4:7)

- A. **Overflow of Redemption:** “pay your debts” (Vs. 7)
- B. **Overflow of Rest:** “live on the **rest**” (Vs. 7)

Question #4: How does the illustration of God's provision and love for the widow and her family inspire encourage you in your walk with Him? Are there specific aspects of this example that resonate with you?

Takeaway: “He (Jesus) must increase, but I must decrease” (John 3:30)

Question #5: What do you need to empty from your life to align with God's will and invite His anointing? Is there a specific area or habit that weighs on your heart when considering surrendering more of yourself to God?