

WIDOWS OF THE BIBLE

SONS OF THE PROPHETS' WIDOW LESSON EIGHT

by Sandy Harber

"So she went from him, and shut the door upon her and upon her sons, who brought the vessels to her; and she poured out." II Kings 4:5

The widow and her sons completed the task of borrowing empty vessels from their neighbors. When they had brought all the borrowed vessels into the house they shut the door. Their house must have looked quite strange. Pots and jars and vases everywhere. There probably wasn't enough furniture with flat surfaces to hold all the vessels so that many were lined up on the floor. They had to be careful where they walked so that they didn't break their neighbors' property. Now the widow was ready to begin pouring the oil.

None of her neighbors could see what the widow was doing with their pots, jars, vases, etc. Perhaps she told some of them what Elisha had instructed her to do. Perhaps not. He did not tell her to keep it a secret. But he did tell her to close her door while she poured the oil. Why?

God wrought this miracle for the benefit of the widow and her sons. It was a private thing just between them. God demonstrated to this fatherless family His great love for them. Throughout the Law God made special provisions for widows and fatherless children. His chosen people were instructed to care for these less fortunate individuals. God saw Himself as their Protector and Avenger of any wrong done to them (Ps. 146:9; Prov. 23:10-11).

God desires to have a personal relationship with each one of us. He wants to spend quality alone time with us. This is done through prayer and Bible study, meditating on His Word, and spending some quiet time listening with your heart. Isn't it amazing that the all-powerful Creator God wants to fellowship with you? He knows all about you and He wants you to know Him in return.

When Jesus was teaching on the subject of prayer He counseled His disciples to go into their prayer closet, shut the door, and pray to the Father in secret (Mt. 6:6). In other words, go somewhere private where you will not be disturbed and pour out your heart to God. Pastors have often advised their congregations to set aside a specific time and place each day to meet with God in prayer. Make it a habit. Satan will try to interfere. Unexpected things will happen that may take your focus off your daily appointment with your Father. Fight it. Remember commandment number one: nothing comes before God in your life (Ex. 20:3).

The widow's sons were witnesses to this miracle. Children are like little sponges, absorbing everything around them. That's why God instructed parents to teach them about Him day and night, at home and abroad (Dt. 6:7). And the best teacher is the example they get from you. The widow obeyed the man of God's instructions exactly. Her children not only saw that but participated in it with her.

You don't have to be a widow to receive personal attention from your Heavenly Father. But, like the widow, you need to be obedient and take time out of your schedule to be alone with Him. You may not witness a miracle. On the other hand, the God of the universe desires a relationship with you. Isn't that miraculous?

*"But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut the door, pray to thy Father which is in secret, and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly."
Matthew 6:6*