

## WIDOWS OF THE BIBLE

### ZAREPHATH WIDOW LESSON TWENTY-FOUR

by Sandy Harber

**"And Elijah took the child, and brought him down out of the chamber into the house, and delivered him unto his mother: and Elijah said, See, thy son liveth. And the woman said to Elijah, Now by this I know that thou art a man of God, and that the word of the Lord in thy mouth is truth." I Kings 17:23-24**

When Elijah took the lifeless body of her son up to his room the widow was left alone in the house. It must have seemed quiet and empty without the presence of her son. We know she was feeling guilty, afraid that God had taken her son from her because of her sin. She probably cried out to God in repentance. Did she believe it was possible for her son to rise from the dead? We don't know. If not, her situation was hopeless. The child was gone from her forever in this lifetime.

But perhaps she did believe her son could be restored to her. The idolatrous religion that she grew up in taught that Baal had the power to bring the dead back to life. The widow had seen for herself the power of Jehovah Who had extended the supply of grain and oil every day. Surely, He could give her child back to her. She probably paced back and forth, praying to Elijah's God, waiting impatiently for something to happen.

Meanwhile, in the room on the roof, Elijah's prayers were answered. He took the little boy out of his room, down the outside staircase, and into the house. As he entered the house he said to the widow, "See, your son lives." What a burden was lifted from the poor mother that day! Her child was alive again!

The response to Elijah was, "Now by this I know that you are a man of God." Really? The miracle of the barrel of meal and the cruse of oil was not enough? It took a resurrection from the dead to convince her that Elijah was a true prophet?

The disciples witnessed many miracles as they accompanied Jesus during His earthly ministry. They were all with Him when He fed the 5,000 from five loaves of bread and two fishes (Mark 6:30-44). That night they saw Him walk on water (Mark 6:45-52). What did they say? "Truly You are the Son of God" (Matthew 14:33). Really? They had just witnessed the creative power of God in creating enough bread and fish to feed a multitude. But it took Jesus walking on the water to convince them that He was truly God. Scripture tells us that they disregarded the miracle of the loaves and fishes because their hearts were hardened (Mark 6:51-52).

We need to guard against complacency. The widow saw the same miracle day after day. The barrel was never empty and the cruse of oil continued to flow. And, so, it became commonplace. The disciples witnessed so many healings and miracles that they no longer experienced awe and wonder. Instead their hearts began to harden. God provides for and sustains us daily. We need to express our gratitude daily (I Thess. 5:18). We need to pay attention and look for God's footprints in our lives. He is always working behind the scenes for our good. We must never lose that awe and wonder.

*"In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."  
I Thessalonians 5:18*