

WIDOWS OF THE BIBLE

SONS OF THE PROPHETS' WIDOW LESSON FOUR

by Sandy Harber

"And Elisha said unto her, What shall I do for thee? tell me, what hast thou in the house?" II Kings 4:2a

Elisha was an important prophet. He was busy doing the Lord's work. He mentored young aspiring prophets in three different cities. Yet he took the time to help this young widow. He didn't tell her to go to her family, friends, and neighbors for help. He didn't pass her off to his servant or another student for assistance. He stopped what he was doing and kindly and patiently aided the unfortunate young mother.

The contrast between the creditor and the prophet is clear. The creditor was concerned about his business and his needs. He was determined to see that his rights were upheld. Everything that he did was legal under the Law of Moses. He did not cheat the widow or abuse her or her sons. But he also showed no compassion. He extended no mercy. He did not care about the suffering of this poor family.

Elisha, on the other hand, had compassion for the widow of his student. He took the time to understand her circumstances. What did she need that he could help her with? What resources did she have available that they could use to resolve her problem? The prophet cared about the situation that the death of the young husband left his family in. He was willing to work with the widow to bring the matter to a good conclusion.

The widow did not have the money to pay the debt. "Well," asked Elisha, "what do you have?" The woman was not completely without resources. She had a house. There were items in the house. Surely, it wasn't empty. What did she already possess that she might not have realized could be used to solve her problem? What resources do you have that God can use to lighten your load?

Our walk with God is a partnership. Yes, He does the heavy lifting but we have a part to play as well. God wants to work with us to overcome our temptations and trials. He supports us through the dark times. But, we still must experience the tribulations of life. If God took us out of every tough situation we would never appreciate the real love and mercy and grace of God. If our lives moved merrily along without a single hiccup we would never know the power of God. The worth of the anchor is only felt in the storm.

Elisha, like God, was willing to team up with the widow to solve her dilemma. She needed to bring her resources to the table, however small, however weak those resources were. Elisha supplied the plan and the power.

Turn over to God your talents, possessions, spiritual gifts, knowledge, finances, skills, personality, experience, etc. He has the power to transform your meager resources into something amazing. As you face each storm in your life remember you have a Partner Who will bring you safely through it. Trust in His power and His plan for your life.

*"I cried unto the Lord with my voice; with my voice unto the Lord did I make my supplication.
I poured out my complaint before him. I showed before him my trouble" Psalm 142:1-2*