

WIDOWS OF THE BIBLE
ZAREPHATH WIDOW LESSON EIGHT

by Sandy Harber

**"And he called to her, and said, Fetch me, I pray thee, a little water in a vessel, that I may drink." I Kings
17:10b**

Elijah initiated contact with the widow. He interrupted her progress in gathering sticks to request a glass of water. This must have seemed like a strange request to the woman.

As we shall see, the widow was essentially gathering what she needed to prepare the last meal for herself and her son (v. 12). She would be out of food and fully expected to starve. Her mind and heart must have been filled with sorrow. More than likely she was feeling hopeless. She had reached the end of her resources.

Her reverie was broken by the words of a stranger. Apparently, she recognized that Elijah was an Israelite because she referred to his God (v. 12). She may have realized that he was a prophet of Jehovah because of his apparel. Whatever she thought of Elijah, she stopped what she was doing and gave him her full attention.

In the middle of a drought Elijah asked for water! Why? When Jesus asked the Samaritan woman for a drink they were standing beside a well and the woman had a pitcher full of water (Jn. 4:7). Elijah requested a drink from a woman whose arms were filled with sticks. At the very least his request was an inconvenience for her.

Was this a test? Perhaps Elijah wasn't sure that this was the widow God told him about. Or, maybe he was just thirsty!

Have you ever felt like everything was hopeless? Like you were at the end of the line with nowhere to go and no one to help? The poor widow believed she was out of options. All her resources were depleted. She had no one to turn to for help. Even worse, she had her young son to care for but she had no way to do so. She may have felt that she was a failure as a mother.

When there was no hope in sight, that was when God sent help in the form of a Hebrew prophet. The widow's final preparations were interrupted by her deliverer. God knew her plight and dispatched her savior from the brook Cherith to arrive in Zarephath at the exact moment that she was preparing for her death and the death of her son.

God knows what we need and when we need it. And He cares about our trials and tribulations. He will not leave us without hope. Just as He delivered the poor widow and her son, He is able and willing to deliver us from our adverse circumstances. As long as there is a God in heaven we have hope.

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not see." Hebrews 11:1