

81 Elisha Helps a Poor Widow

Scripture: 2 Kings 4:1-7

Memory Verse: A Father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in His Holy dwelling. Ps. 68:5

Aim: To teach that God can miraculously provide what we need most: rescue from slavery of sin.

Before Elijah was taken up to heaven in a whirlwind, Elisha asked for an inheritance of a double-portion of his spirit. Elijah wisely told him that only God could make that decision and provision. This might sound like Elisha was being greedy, as if he wanted to be greater than Elijah. But as Jesus taught, greatness comes through being a servant, so Elisha was asking that God would glorify Himself by making Elisha an even better servant than Elijah!

Sometime after Elijah had been taken up to heaven in a whirlwind, a widow of a member of the group of prophets came to Elisha and cried out, "My husband who served you is dead, and you know how he feared the LORD. But now a creditor has come, threatening to take my two sons as slaves."

"What can I do to help you?" Elisha asked. "Tell me, what do you have in the house?"

"Nothing at all, except a flask of olive oil," she replied.

And Elisha said, "Borrow as many empty jars as you can from your friends and neighbors. Then go into your house with your sons and shut the door behind you. Pour olive oil from your flask into the jars, setting each one aside when it is filled."

So she did as she was told. Her sons kept bringing jars to her, and she filled one after another. Soon every container was full to the brim!

"Bring me another jar," she said to one of her sons.

"There aren't any more!" he told her. And then the olive oil stopped flowing.

When she told the man of God what had happened, he said to her, "Now sell the olive oil and pay your debts, and you and your sons can live on what is left over."

The widow and her sons were in trouble. Because of money they owed, the sons were going to be sold into slavery. People who don't know Jesus are also troubled because they owe a debt to God that they can't. But God loves us so much that He sent Jesus to pay the debt for us. We only need to put our faith in Him – the only One who can Save.