

Something About Nothing

II Kings 4:1-6

Read verse 1

A. Have you noticed that the one thing that was common to many of the Gospel stories was emptiness? Can you give some examples?

Read verse 2a

Prophet: "How can I help you? Tell me what you have in your house?" (2a)

A. Have you considered that God is much more concerned with how you respond, rather than what you say? Why do you think that is?

B. Have you also ever noticed how we show God all the abilities that ***we have*** rather than what we ***don't have*** to offer? Give an example of when you've done this.

Read verse 2b

"Your servant has nothing at all..." (2b)

What would happen if we first began to confess to God our emptiness, our loneliness, our helplessness, our darkness, our questions?

Read verse 3

"Elisha said, "Go around and ask all your neighbors for empty jars. Don't ask for just a few." (3)

It is interesting to me that the prophet required her to pretty much make public her need. My guess is that the prophet knew she needed a bit more emptiness... humility... and awareness of her need. I believe that the only way we can be totally empty of self is when people who love us are involved in the process of showing us what is left in us.

We first asked, “What would happen if we first began to confess to God our emptiness, our loneliness, our helplessness, our darkness, our questions?” Now let’s ask, “What would happen if we did this with each other?” Are you willing to do this? How would you treat someone else who came to you in this state?

Read verse 6

“When all the jars were full, she said to her son, ‘Bring me another one.’ But he replied, ‘There is not a jar left.’ Then the oil stopped flowing. (6)

In this passage when did the oil stop? What would have made the oil continue to flow? What does this tell us about confessing our emptiness?

Read verse 2 again

Prophet: “Tell me, what do you have in your house?” “Your servant has nothing there at all,” she said, “.....except a little oil.”

When is the last time you have been totally dependant on God? What did He do? Did He challenge you by not doing anything?

How is your life paralleling this story? And if it is isn’t, what does this tell you about how you practice emptiness?