

## Times Two pt5 – From Debt to Overflow

Dr. John Carmichael

[2Ki 4:1-7 NASB95] 1 Now a certain woman of the wives of the sons of the prophets cried out to Elisha, "Your servant my husband is dead, and you know that your servant feared the LORD; and the creditor has come to take my two children to be his slaves." 2 Elisha said to her, "What shall I do for you? Tell me, what do you have in the house?" And she said, "Your maidservant has nothing in the house except a jar of oil." 3 Then he said, "Go, borrow vessels at large for yourself from all your neighbors, [even] empty vessels; do not get a few. 4 "And you shall go in and shut the door behind you and your sons, and pour out into all these vessels, and you shall set aside what is full." 5 So she went from him and shut the door behind her and her sons; they were bringing [the vessels] to her and she poured. 6 When the vessels were full, she said to her son, "Bring me another vessel." And he said to her, "There is not one vessel more." And the oil stopped. 7 Then she came and told the man of God. And he said, "Go, sell the oil and pay your debt, and you [and] your sons can live on the rest."

- "It is not fair!" Many times, we deal with crises that are not our fault.
- Ultimately, we all died in Adam. However, through Jesus' atonement, we are saved. (1 Cor. 15:22)
- This situation is different. It is earthly. She did not cause the crisis. Neither God nor Elisha is going to do all the work. She will play a part. She was not only getting out of debt. She was going to live in overflow!

**What does this story tell us about living from debt to overflow?**

**Here are five principles of living from debt to overflow.**

### **I. An unearned crisis.**

- a. V. 1 – this was a debt that her husband left her. Her sons would be taken from you.
- b. Learn to appropriately deal with things that happen to you.
- c. Do not get bitter internally or resentful toward other people; take it to the Lord.
- d. Forsake self-pity. Forgive people. Decide to overcome. Ask God for help.

### **II. A conflicted calculation.**

- a. V. 2 – she had "nothing," but she did have something, a little oil.
- b. God has given to us everything. [2Pe 1:2-3 NASB95] 2 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; 3 seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.
- c. [Exo 4:1-5 NASB95] 1 Then Moses said, "What if they will not believe me or listen to what I say? For they may say, 'The LORD has not appeared to you.'" 2 The LORD said to him, "What is that in your hand?" And he said, "A staff." 3 Then He said, "Throw it on the ground." So he threw it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from it. 4 But the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand and grasp [it] by its tail" so he stretched out his hand and caught it, and it became a staff in his hand 5 "that they may believe that the LORD, the God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has appeared to you."
- d. Believe that what God has gifted you will help you overcome it.

### **III. A work-filled command.**

- a. V. 3-4, 7 – she (not Elisha, had to go get the bottles and pour the oil.)
- b. [Jhn 9:6-7 NASB95] 6 When He had said this, He spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and applied the clay to his eyes, 7 and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of

## Times Two pt5 – From Debt to Overflow

Dr. John Carmichael

Siloam" (which is translated, Sent). So he went away and washed, and came [back] seeing.

- c. [Phl 2:12-13 NASB95] 12 So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; 13 for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for [His] good pleasure.
- d. God will do a miracle; however, often, it will have your fingerprints on them.
- e. What is your part of the miracle?

### IV. Faith-filled containers.

- a. V. 5-6a.
- b. The size of the miracle was directly related to how many vessels she obtained.
- c. "If she borrowed few vessels, she would have but little oil; if she borrowed many vessels they should all be filled, and she should have much oil. She was herself to measure out what she should have; and I believe that you and I, in the matter of spiritual blessings from God, have more to do with the measurement of our mercies than we think. We make our blessings little, because our prayers are little." (Spurgeon)
- d. [Psa 81:10 NASB95] 10 "I, the LORD, am your God, Who brought you up from the land of Egypt; Open your mouth wide and I will fill it.
- e. Our containers
  - i. Prayers – ask big.
  - ii. Efforts – take heed. Walk. Education. Time. [Col 4:17 NASB95] 17 Say to Archippus, "Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may fulfill it."
  - iii. Giving – to the measure you give is the measure you receive. [2Co 9:6 NASB95] 6 Now this [I say,] he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.
- f. Give God all the tools you can to walk in the miracle.

### V. A miracle ceased.

- a. V. 6b. God did not cease the miracle. Nor the devil.
  - b. Do not limit God.
  - c. [Eph 3:20-21 NASB95] 20 Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, 21 to Him [be] the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.
  - d. KJV – "limited" - [Psa 78:41 NASB95] 41 Again and again they tempted God, And pained the Holy One of Israel.
  - e. Do not let anything limit what you believe God wants to do for you.
  - f. A few possible limiters:
    - i. Doubt.
    - ii. Lack of prayer.
    - iii. Lack of effort.
  - g. "The principle of this miracle was the same as the principle of the ditches dug in the previous chapter. The amount of man's work with the miracle determined the amount of blessing and provision actually received. God's powerful provision invites our hard work and never excuses laziness." (Guzik)
  - h. Act and believe that God wants more for you. Do not make God small.
- **God will help us overcome all crises, earned and unearned, with overflow. You will live above the crises.**