

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan

II KINGS 4

II Kings 4

There is no doubt that many who read the Bible get the two faithful prophets Elijah and Elisha confused and will often attribute what one did to the other. That is true because their names are very much alike, but also because the two of them did the same kind of miracles in the same areas of the country. While Elisha has more recorded miracles performed than Elijah, his predecessor, it is Elijah that is mentioned repeatedly in passages throughout both the Old and New Testaments. James, the half-brother of the Lord Jesus said that **"Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. Again, he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth yielded its crops."** (James 5:17-18) Elijah was a man **"Just like us."** The reality is, every son of Adam is "Just like us!" We are all sinful creatures in need of a savior. Elisha was just like us. This should engender hope, encouragement, and a great desire in each of us to walk with God each day, trusting in His Word, the Bible.

The passage before us is rich with the miraculous and each cannot be discussed in detail in such a short commentary, but let's look at the first one in chapter 4. A man of God, a preacher, a prophet had died and as most preachers, they did not prepare well for their family after their departure.

The prophet was a true man of God but had given his life to the study of Torah and walking with God and died owing money that the widow's resources could not pay. In ancient times there were no such things as bankrupt laws and the different chapters of the law, Chapter 7, Chapter 13, and the like. The person owed could take everything the person owned to pay the debt and if that was not enough, the person owed could also take the family members, sons and daughters as slaves/servants. These sons and daughters would work for the person owed until the debt was satisfied. Elisha instructed the widow to go and borrow vessels and notice the phrase, **"empty vessels, do not gather just a few."** (v.3) Think about it, if she had just gathered a few, that is all God would have filled and the need would have not been met because of her lack of diligence and obedience.

Prayer and Action Steps

God fills all those places in our lives that we empty! When we empty ourselves in every area of life, God fills those places with His Holy Spirit and those areas come under His control and domain. Lord, please help us to empty ourselves and allow you to fill us with your Spirit. Amen

Date _____ Scripture _____

- Read the chapter. If you have time, read it again.
- Highlight, underline or circle the Key Verse or Verses of the chapter.
- Ask yourself these questions as you read through the chapter.

Is this historical narrative, analogy, metaphor, allegory, or some other element of speech or communicating truth?

What is the Context? Old Testament? New Testament? What is the writer speaking or writing about? To whom is he writing?

Is this a clear passage of Scripture (can only be interpreted one way)? Or could the passage be interpreted legitimately, in two or more ways, according to grammar and context?

Does the passage teach a Biblical Precept; that is, tells you something to be, do or act? _____

Are there principles in this chapter that if followed, would require me to change my attitudes or actions? _____

Does the passage give a Biblical Pattern that is followed here and other places in the Bible? _____
