

How to Handle a Crisis

2 Kings 4:1-7

Introduction

The woman in 2 Kings Chapter 4 was in a crisis. Her husband had died so she was in an emotional crisis. The passage tells us that this woman was about to lose her children because of debt, so she was also in a financial crisis. Her difficult circumstances seemingly placed her in a situation where her life was unraveling right in front of her eyes. The woman went to the prophet in search of a solution from God. In the middle of her crisis, she sought God's prophet to receive spiritual guidance and help to resolve her problem. Apparently, this woman shared in the same committed faith of her husband who was from "the sons, [*otherwise known as the company*] of the prophets." (2 King 4:1). Her faith was demonstrated by her act of reaching out for God's help, in the time of crisis.

Even though the woman had very little to speak of, the prophet Elisha asked the woman to use what she already had available in her home. Elisha didn't solve her problem rather, he asked her to participate in the solution giving her an opportunity to experience more, than what she could see with her physical eye. The woman went to borrow as many vessels as she could from her neighbors. When she returned home, Elisha instructed her to shut the door and pour out the little oil she had into the collected vessels, setting each one aside after it was filled. When she began to pour, the oil kept coming until all the vessels were filled! The woman then went and sold the oil and paid back her debt, thus saving her children!

Even today, believers in the middle of a crisis can experience God's intervention. While there may not seem to be a physical solution available to the problem at hand, when we are willing to offer God what we have, be available to others, and operate in full submission to His guidance, we will see Him work. God is able to multiply even where there only appears to be limitations. Doing things God's way is worth it! Who knows, you may already have the solution to your problem right in your hand.

Getting Started

1. There are many stories from the Bible that illustrate God's ability to multiply what little someone has in their hand. What Biblical characters do you recall that offered what they had in their hand to God and saw Him work a miracle?
2. What resonated with you most from today's message?

Let's Get Personal

1. The woman in today's message appeared to be limited in what she could offer God? Do you feel limited? How so?
2. Have you let your limitations get in the way of what God is asking you to do?
3. What spiritual, emotional, financial, or relational crisis have you experienced in the past? Are you experiencing one now? Share that with your group.

Take the Next Step

1. What do you already have "in your hand" that you think God can use? Do you already know what He would have you to do with what you have in your possession? Share that with your group.
2. Think for a moment about David and Goliath. Talk about how this story parallels the story of the woman and the vessels of oil. What implications does this have for your life? What one thing will you do differently this week in light of this truth?

Renew Your Mind

"Tell me, what do you have in the house." 2 Kings 4:2