

## Bring Every Vessel

A certain woman of the wives of the sons of the prophets cried out to Elisha, saying, "Your servant my husband is dead, and you know that your servant feared the LORD. And the creditor is coming to take my two sons to be his slaves." So 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 but a jar of oil." Then he said, "Go, borrow vessels from everywhere, from all your neighbours—empty vessels; do not gather just a few. And when you have come in, you shall shut the door behind you and your sons; then pour it into all those vessels, and set aside the full ones." So she went from him and shut the door behind her and her sons, who brought *the vessels* to her; and she poured *it* out. Now it came to pass, when the vessels were full, that she said to her son, "Bring me another vessel." And he said to her, "*There is not another vessel.*" So the oil ceased. (2 Kings 4:1-6 NKJV)

Most of us have read this account, where the prophet Elisha says to the widow to find every empty vessel she can and bring it, then fill it with the oil, and how God miraculously makes the oil extend until every vessel is full then only stopping..

Now I have heard this quoted as scripture about God's provision many times, which it is, but for me there is another, important principle in here..

This happened in the old testament times when they were very strict on laws of what is sanctified and what is not for use, but the prophet Elisha says, bring EVERY EMPTY vessel you can find.. Bring it and fill it.. He did not say "bring every purified vessel", or "bring every ceremonially cleaned vessel" or "bring only vessels from your Jewish neighbors", he said BRING IT... no matter if it comes from your Rabi neighbor or the prostitute down the street bring it, no matter if it came out of a "Jewish or Gentile" home bring it, just bring it and God will fill it till overflowing...

We all know that Oil is a symbol of the Holy Spirit in the Bible. God started talking to me about this account. You see we so often fall into manmade rules and regulations and insecurities and judgment and whatever else that we forget that God says "Bring it and I will fill it, no matter where it comes from" ..

We are to be vessels, carriers of the Holy Spirit, carriers of the Image and Love of Christ.. but why aren't so many... because we are picky of vessels, we decide for God what can be filled and what can't be, often "disqualifying" ourselves and others while God waits for us to come to Him, to bring our vessels.

God says He is a respecter of no man and ANYONE who comes to the Son is accepted by Him. Anyone who asks for the Holy Spirit will be filled.

Note that Elisha was not picky about which vessels to bring..

Interesting also to note the name Elisha means "God of richness (fullness)" .. It is as if everything about this man proclaimed that God does not do anything half measure but in fullness.

God says to us bring every empty vessel and I will fill it.. Not bring only those vessels that studied as pastors (and I did so I am not knocking the role of pastors), or only those that are "called" to it, He does not say bring only those vessels that sit in mega churches, or small churches, or house churches, or that walk the road in this or that way, He does not say bring only the vessels that have studied this or done that or been through this type of prayers or that type of "cleansing", or been around so many years, He says BRING IT AND I WILL FILL IT.

But we fall into manmade laws and religion and traditions and keep people away from the calling that EACH and every Christian is called with, the be filled with the Fullness of the Holy Spirit, to know God as intimate Friend and Father, to have the Image of Christ formed in us, to walk in Revelation and maturity and love.

God doesn't care what the color of your skin is, what gender you are, what sins you have been in, how many times you have fallen before, how lukewarm you were in the past, how unworthy you feel, God doesn't care if you are a president or a prostitute, your "stature" means nothing to Him, He cares if you are willing..

He asks two things for us to be filled and used .. Only that, nothing else...

1. Bring your vessel
2. Bring it empty

Bring your vessel is easy, you must just be willing and bring yourself to Him in prayer (I will include a prayer for you at the end if you wish to pray it)..

Bringing it empty... well that.. that's just as easy... no you did not read wrong, that is just as easy... now I can only hear the questions going up.. but Jaco my pastor says I must do this and this and that and that, but what about getting my life in order first, renewing my mind first, quitting this or that first, surely God wants that first before He will fill me... ?

Easy answer.. NO..

So how do I make my vessel empty? By choice...

You come to God and say, here I am, I pack out this and this and this and this and everything of myself, all my ideas, all my shortcomings, all my failures, all my wrong mindsets is at the moment laying outside myself, here I am, empty of my own will, fill me Lord... that's it.. there's no "magic chant", no "cleansing ritual", no "sacred rights", no earning it by your works ... just you laying down your will and taking up God's. (But you cannot make God accept you because of something you do. God accepts sinners only because they have faith in Him. Romans 4:5)

Dear friends, God loves each and every person equally and wants nothing more than for each and every one to walk in the fullness of what He has for us, to be filled to the rim, to have our cups / vessels run over with His Holy Spirit presence and love and wisdom and everything that comes with it. God also does not ask what you can "contribute", how much you can give ect, He just wants your vessel, that's all, just bring yourself, that's all God wants, your "gifts" mean nothing to Him, He gave it to you in the first place, all He wants is you !

So will you lay down your own ideas with me today, will you lay down wrong mindsets and insecurities and judgment and manmade laws and rules and regulations, will you forget your past and forget about what others might think about you and just pray a prayer with me... ? Do you want to be filled by God, fully filled by God ?

Then why don't you believe that God rewards those that seek Him and pray this prayer with me .. (out loud is always better as faith comes from hearing and sometimes you need to hear yourself pray something before you believe that you believe it.. you'll know what I mean if you have ever experienced it...)

Father

I come to you knowing I can never deserve Your love of forgiveness, but that I can come to You through the Blood of Jesus Christ and therefore I am Holy and Righteous in Your sight no matter what my past or current circumstances are. Please forgive my sins in Jesus name, cleanse me with the Blood of the Lamb and give me the strength to walk this road for I do not have the strength in myself. I come to you, I pack out all my sins, all my shortcomings, all my failures, every weakness, every disappointment, all bitterness, all un-forgiveness, every teaching and philosophy I cling to no matter how good or right it sounds, I pack everything outside myself in front of Your Throne, I lay it at Your feet, and I bring myself voluntarily, a empty vessel.. And I ask one thing, asking it without worrying about what it will require of me... I ask.. Fill me with Your Holy Spirit till overflowing, Holy Spirit please come and fill me, make permanent residence in me and you take control.. when I fall, pick me up, when I am weak, make me strong, when I sin, help me to repent, where I am blind, help me see.. Take the stone out of my heart and make my heart soft flesh, take control of my life. I love You, help me to love You more and more each day, make me the person I am meant to be. I ask this unconditionally. In Jesus Holy Name. Amen (May it be so)

I hope you prayed this prayer with me and that you will share this with everyone you meet, no matter if you thought they "deserve" forgiveness or the Holy Spirit for God thinks they do.

PS: If you said "I don't need to pray this prayer I am already 'righteous'" you probably need to pray this prayer most..

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