

The Widows

1 Kings 17:7-16

7 Some time later the brook dried up because there had been no rain in the land. 8 Then the word of the Lord came to him: 9 "Go at once to Zarephath of Sidon and stay there. I have commanded a widow in that place to supply you with food." 10 So he went to Zarephath. When he came to the town gate, a widow was there gathering sticks. He called to her and asked, "Would you bring me a little water in a jar so I may have a drink?" 11 As she was going to get it, he called, "And bring me, please, a piece of bread."

12 "As surely as the Lord your God lives," she replied, "I don't have any bread—only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. I am gathering a few sticks to take home and make a meal for myself and my son, that we may eat it—and die."

13 Elijah said to her, "Don't be afraid. Go home and do as you have said. But first make a small cake of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me, and then make something for yourself and your son. 14 For this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: 'The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the Lord gives rain on the land.' "

15 She went away and did as Elijah had told her. So there was food every day for Elijah and for the woman and her family. 16 For the jar of flour was not used up and the jug of oil did not run dry, in keeping with the word of the Lord spoken by Elijah.

Luke 7:11-15

11 Jesus went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd went along with him. 12 As he approached the town gate, a dead person was being carried out--the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the town was with her. 13 When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her and he said, "Don't cry."

14 Then he went up and touched the coffin, and those carrying it stood still. He said, "Young man, I say to you, get up!" 15 The dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him back to his mother.

Deuteronomy 10:18

He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the alien, giving him food and clothing.

Message notes:

In the Kingdom of God, _____ is the way to freedom.

There can be seasons of life where God _____ us and forms our character.

It's not how much you have, it's who's _____ it is in.

He takes nothing and turns it into something, but only when we _____ to Him.

When we start limiting God to _____ He has to work, we will be challenged by Him

God is your _____, protector, and provider.

Additional notes:

Discussion Questions:

Why do we have to yield our life in order to take God's name for us?

Why does God use the "nothings" to humble the "somethings"?

Has God ever asked you to make a big sacrifice in your life to continue following Him?

How do finances and possessions stretch farther when they are in God's hands?

Why does God have such a compassionate heart towards widows?

Share a story of a time that God has come through with great provision in your life.

Ministry Time Questions:

Is anyone struggling in a season of hiddenness and namelessness?

Is anyone in a season of extreme dependence on God, not having any other options?