

Widow of Zeraphath

The woman who invited miracles (1 kings 17)



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Widow of Zeraphath

- Outline
 - Part 1
 - Countdown to a miracle
 - Background: Elijah and the Widow
 - The Widow's testimony
 - Part 2
 - Unbelief
 - Part 3
 - Conclusion
 - Prayer



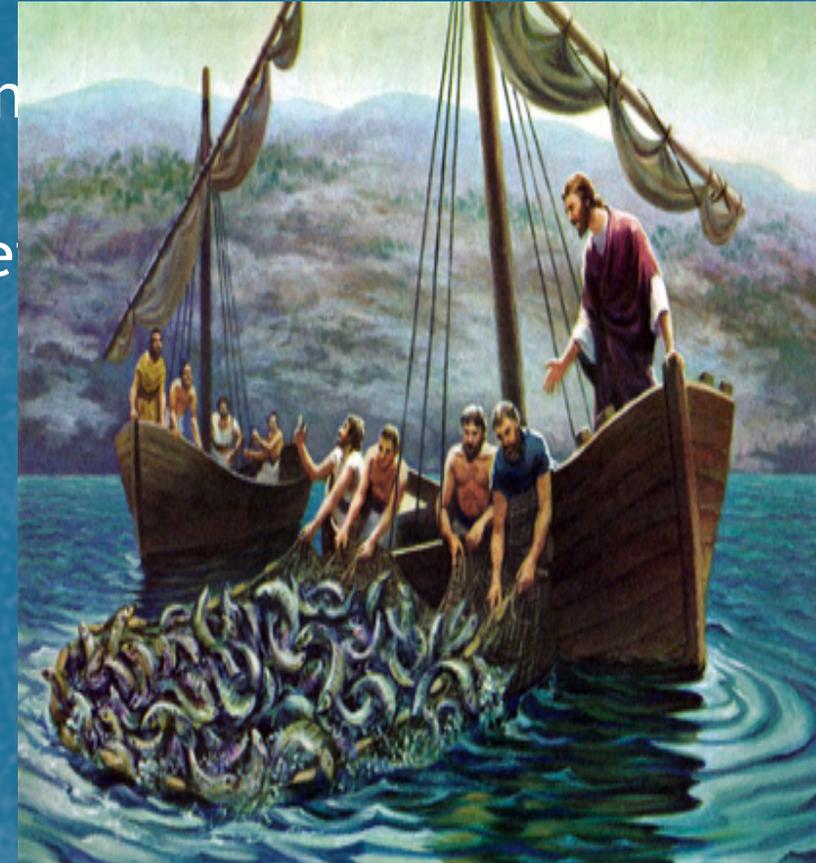
Widow of Zeraphath

- Countdown to a miracle (AIR)
 - Acknowledge => Identify and acknowledge the problem
 - Instruct => Word, sense, 'gut feeling', nudge
 - Respond => Obey
- Result
 - Miracle
 - God is glorified



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- Example (Luke 5:5)
 - Acknowledge the problem: Simon had toiled all night and had no catch
 - Instruction: Lower your net into deep waters
 - Response: “At your word we will let down our nets”
 - Result:
 - A huge catch
 - Peter is converted



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- Other examples
 - The wedding at Cana (John 2:2)
 - The healing of Naaman the leper (2 Kings 5)
 - Moses
 - Gideon
 - The healing of blind Bartimaeus (Mark 10: 46-52)



Widow of Zeraphath

- Background: Elijah and the Widow
 - A terrible famine
 - God sends Elijah to a brook which ultimately dries up
 - God sends him to a widow in Zarephath
 - She's on the brink of death
 - She's poor
- The strong amongst us are called to bless the weak and lonely
- God will use the foolish things of this world



Widow of Zeraphath

- **The Widow's Testimony (1 Kings 17)- The miracle of flour and oil**
 - **Acknowledge the problem**
 - "I swear by the lord your God that I don't have a single piece of bread in the house. And I have only a handful of flour left in the jar and a little cooking oil in the bottom of the jug. I was just gathering a few sticks to cook this last meal and then my son and I will die" v12
 - **Instruction**
 - "...Make a little bread for me first. Then use what's left to prepare a meal for yourself and your son. For this is what the Lord says. There will always be flour and olive oil left in your containers until the time when the Lord sends rain and the crops grow again" v14
 - **Response**
 - "So she did as Elijah said" v15
- **The Result**
 - "There was always enough flour and olive oil left in the containers, just as the Lord had promised through Elijah" v16



Widow of Zeraphath

- Lessons for us
 - **Acknowledge**
 - Pray
 - Give everything to God
 - Be humble before God
 - **Instruction**
 - Quiet
 - Listen
 - Read the Bible
 - Write
 - Seek confirmation
 - **Respond**
 - Obey
 - Expect the supernatural
 - Be at peace



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UNBELIEF



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- Build your faith
 - Faith guarantees us a good testimony (Hebrews 11:2)
 - The substance of things hoped for, the evidence of the unseen (Hebrews 11:1)
 - Without faith it is impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:6)
 - These miraculous signs will accompany those who believe (Mark 16:17)
- How?
 - **Read and meditate** on the word of God (Romans 10:17)
 - **Memorize** the promises of God
 - The promises give substance to our hopes
 - In the Bible is evidence of the unseen becoming real



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- Guard your mind, reject contrary thoughts, actively think right

- Romans 4:18 - 21

Abraham - “who contrary to hope believed, in hope believed, so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken...and not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of sarah’s womb. He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God. And being fully convinced that what he had promised he was able to perform”



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- Belief in God's love (John 3:16)
- God loves me:
 - So when I pray, He hears and answers
 - Therefore I am empowered to be a blessing
 - Therefore I can do all things
 - Therefore I will not fear



Widow of Zeraphath

- Conclusion
 - AIR => Acknowledge, The Instruction, Our Response
 - Consider areas of unbelief
 - Building our faith
 - Guarding our hearts
 - Living in love
 - See miracles and glorify God

