

The Empty Barrel

All too often we look in the wrong places today, to see the power of God. As a society, we are easily side-tracked by the illusion that we have risen to new levels of intelligence and that our enlightened awareness of the how the world around us functions has equipped us with every possible solution to solve the most difficult problems. Yet, throughout time, God has chosen simple, humbling ways to show his people what He can do with those who are ready to yield to Him through faith. (*1 Kings 18:38-39*)

Elijah and the widow at Zarephath (1 Kings 17:8-16)

1.) Sometimes things can seem _____.

- a. Think about her place in life (*1 Kings 17:10-12; Duet.15:11*)
- b. Realize her problems in life (*vs.12*)
- c. Look at her plan for the balance of life. Others have felt this way. (*Ex. 2:11-15; 1 Kings 19:4; Jonah 2:4; Mark 4:38; Gen.37:34-35; Psalm 42*)

2.) The Wisdom of God and the _____ of man.

- a. An Unusual Relationship (*vs. 9; Luke 4:25-26*)
- b. An Untroubled Request (*vs. 11, 13-14; James 5:17-18*)
- c. An Uneasy Response (*vs.15; Matt. 17:20*) God can be trusted to meet our needs in every way. (*2 Cor.12:9; Matt.6:25-34; Phil.4:19; Heb 13:5; Matt 28:20; Isa.43:2; Rom. 8:28-29*)

3.) “Do Not Fear”...God is _____ . (vs. 16)

- a. With every step and accomplishment of faith, there are still trials and tests (*vv.17-19*)
- b. Many who have served God still faced tests of their faith. (*Heb. 11:13, 32-38*)
- c. Both Elijah and the widow still had to depend on God. (*vv.21-24*)

It is easy to see how God works through and cares for those who are willing to yield to Him in faith. The bible shows us those things many times over. The question becomes, will we be one of those people? Will we trust in the true power of God to shape us and use us in even the smallest ways?