



Our God is the “Stimulus
Package” for His Own !
2 Kings 4:1-7

Observations

- A stormy and violent debate occurred once, when the 13 original colonies of this country tried to decide on what plan of Government should be used by the states that would be formed
- Benjamin Franklin rose during one of the heated arguments and said these words:

“I have lived a long time and the longer I live, the more convincing proof I see of this truth: that God governs the affairs of men. If a sparrow cannot fall without his notice, is it possible that an empire can rise without his aid?”

- Jesus was the original author of the bird analogy:
Matthew 6:26

“Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?”

The Story

- A woman lived in one of the villages of Israel with her two sons
- This woman owed her creditors, and being unable to pay them, the creditors were now coming to take her sons
- The Law of Moses in Exodus 21:2 allowed her creditor to take her sons for bondmen in payment of his claim
- We aren't told what prompted the creditor to ask her to pay up ASAP, but we do understand why David said this:

“Let us fall into the hands of God; let me not fall into the hand of man.” 1 Chronicles 21:13 (We know that man can be cruel)

- We aren't told how she reached a situation where she had more than she could afford (financial mismanagement on her part? Becoming a widow and now missing her husband's contribution to the household; Single parenting financial difficulties, with 2 boys)

Observations

- This woman evidently was one of God's children, married to a son of one of the prophets who had died
- Here is a woman who asked God for a “stimulus package” for her family, based on her support of her husband's ministry for God
- So, you don't have to be constantly “Out Front,” (the point person), in every ministry God has, to receive your blessings
- But it does help to be a passionate supporter of God, facilitating His work wherever He can use you, 1 Cor. 12:21
- This church has been blessed by men and women who have assumed various “support roles,” for its success
- Working for God, you are never “behind the scenes,” Matthew 6:4, *“thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly.”* (He sees you when nobody else does)

Observations

- This woman's faith was tested: *"What do you have left in the house?"*
- Sometimes when God sends you a "stimulus package," He ask you to trust Him with what you have, not what you don't have
- For example, In Exodus chapter 4, God was trying to get Moses to go to the Israelite nation and let them know that he would be the servant that God would use to lead the nation of Israel out of Egypt.
- Moses says, *"the people won't believe that you sent me to lead them."*
- God then asks Moses, *"What do you have in your hand?"*
- Moses says, *"a staff."* God says, *"throw it on the ground."*
And it turned into a snake! Moses ran from it!

Observations

- God then says, *“reach with your hand and grab it by the tail.”*
- Moses did that and the snake turned back to a staff.
- In Exodus 14 Moses is escaping the Egyptian army with the Israelite Nation, and he leads them to the edge of a body of water called the Red Sea (thought to be a dead end)
- God then tells Moses, in verse 16 to hold that same staff (stick) out over the great body of water
- Verse 21 says that when Moses did that with his Staff (stick), the body of water divided, and the nation crossed over on dry land. The enemy followed in hot pursuit, but the same staff (stick) was held up and caused the sea to drown them
- Be faithful with what God has already given you; *“He who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much; and he who is unrighteous in a very little thing is unrighteous also in much.” (Luke 16:10, NASB)*

Back to Elisha's Story With a Question:

- Can a dead man's righteousness still bless those that are left behind?
- Hebrews 11:4 tells us that God uses Abel's faithfulness when He speaks to us
- Folks, your right living can bless your descendants long after you are gone (blessed by your religious parents)
- By the same token, unrighteous living can hurt your descendants long after you are gone
- Remember that children tend to "embellish" the habits of their parents (in Ahmad Arbery's death, it was the son of Greg McMichael, Travis, that fired the three shotgun blasts).
- Your righteousness can bless your church long after you are dead and buried (Black, Boyd, Mayes, Mickens, and their families, have blessed us)

Watch the Instructions She Was Given!

- Elisha asked her, *“what do you have in your house?”*
- She says, *“nothing, except a small jar of oil.”*
- Elisha says, *“Ok, go and borrow a lot of containers,”*
- Notice this: When God blesses our efforts (works), our blessings are not totally based on OUR efforts
- It’s our belief or faith in the POWER OF GOD working through our efforts. Remember Hebrews 11:6
- This woman’s faith was tested (like ours is)

She was instructed to borrow a lot of empty containers

She was instructed to pour her only jar of oil out in expectation of filling the borrowed containers

- All of this was to be done simply on the grounds of the prophet’s word (just like we pray, trust God’s promises, and try to live right)

But Before She Followed These Instructions She Was Told To: Shut the Door!

- That means to shut the world out and shut herself in with God (with her sons). Not a community entertainment show to feel prideful about. *“God resisteth the proud.....” James 4:6*
- God wants us to remember that sometimes, it’s about you and Him. Don’t give yourself undue credit for blessings
- **WHAT KIND OF RELATIONSHIP DO YOU HAVE WITH HIM?**
- God desires a personal relationship with EACH of His children
- Your stimulus check (blessing) is provided by God for you
- Her sons, being involved, now had a testimony to bless their faithfulness. Please involve your children in your God given relationship. You may not be around when they will need God

Finally, She Was Told What to Do With the Newly Found Stimulus!

*“When all the jars were full she said to her son, “Bring me another one.” But he replied, “There is not a jar left.” Then the oil stopped flowing. She went and told the man of God and he said, “Go, sell the oil and pay your debts. You and your sons **can** live on what is left.” 2 Kings 4:6-7*

- Elisha informed her that she should wipe her debts clean, FIRST, with the money she would get from selling the oil
- He also added some more financial advice: If she were financially responsible, she and her sons could live off of the leftover profits after the debts were paid
- Don't Ignore your debt when *“your ship comes in!”* (shopping, new designer clothes, new carriage, fine dining)
- Pay your debts off first, then live responsibly, glorifying God

The Plan of Salvation

Hear the Gospel	Acts 15:7
Believe the Gospel	Acts 15:7
Repent of Sins	Acts 17:30
Confess Christ	Acts 8:37
Be Baptized	Acts 8:38