

# Emptying Your Cup

A close-up photograph of water being poured from a clear glass pitcher. The water is captured in mid-pour, creating a dynamic, curved stream that falls towards the bottom right of the frame. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light blue and white, suggesting an outdoor setting. The pitcher's rim and the water's surface are clearly visible, with light reflecting off the glass and the liquid.

**Elijah & Elisha**

# Emptying Your Cup

Elijah – prophet in a difficult season

- two nations – Israel & Judah

- Israel – not following God

- some of the last Kings

  - \* Jeroboam 1 Kings 12:25ff

  - \* Nadab – 15:25-27

  - \* Baasha – 15:34

  - \* Omri – 16:25-26

  - \* Ahab – 16:30-33



# Emptying Your Cup

- Baal – Canaanite god of fertility

## 3 Pictures from our Passage

### 1. Becoming a Messenger

- Elijah is chosen to deliver a message to the King, that will not be popular or easy for the people



# Emptying Your Cup

Now Elijah the Tishbite, from Tishbe in Gilead, said to Ahab, “As the LORD, the God of Israel, lives, whom I serve, there will be neither dew nor rain in the next few years except at my word.”

<sup>2</sup> Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah:

<sup>3</sup> “Leave here, turn eastward and hide in the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan. <sup>4</sup> You will drink from the brook, and I have ordered the ravens to feed you there.”

<sup>5</sup> So he did what the LORD had told him. He went to the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan, and stayed there. <sup>6</sup> The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning and bread and meat in the evening, and he drank from the brook.



# Emptying Your Cup

- led by God to a place of
  - isolation
  - dependence
  - provision
- James 5:17 “Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. <sup>18</sup> Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops”




# Emptying Your Cup

## 2. Following God's Leading

“Some time later the brook dried up because there had been no rain in the land. <sup>8</sup> Then the word of the LORD came to him: <sup>9</sup> “Go at once to Zarephath of Sidon and stay there. I have commanded a widow in that place to supply you with food.” <sup>10</sup> 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?” <sup>11</sup> As she was going to get it, he called, “And bring me, please, a piece of bread.”



# Emptying Your Cup

- 
- <sup>12</sup> “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.”
- <sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> 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.’”
- <sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> 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.

# Emptying Your Cup

a) went where God sent

- 100 miles away, being hunted
- home town of Jezebel
- sent to a widow – no resources
- had to ask for help

\* had the promise of God:

- already commanded her
- will provide for you there





# Emptying Your Cup

b) response of the widow

- I have no resources
- I have nowhere to turn
- I have no more hope

c) care and call of Elijah

- 'don't be afraid'
- do what God asked and trust
- hear and hold his promise



# Emptying Your Cup

d) actions of the Widow

- make the 1<sup>st</sup> for the Man of God
- put the promise into action
- live each day with that faith

3. Pleading with God

- we see Elijah pour his heart to God in concern for this family



# Emptying Your Cup

Some time later the son of the woman who owned the house became ill. He grew worse and worse, and finally stopped breathing.

<sup>18</sup> She said to Elijah, “What do you have against me, man of God? Did you come to remind me of my sin and kill my son?”

<sup>19</sup> “Give me your son,” Elijah replied. He took him from her arms, carried him to the upper room where he was staying, and laid him on his bed. <sup>20</sup> Then he cried out to the LORD, “O LORD my God, have you brought tragedy also upon this widow I am staying with, by causing her son to die?” <sup>21</sup> Then he stretched himself out on the boy three times and cried to the LORD, “O LORD my God, let this boy’s life return to him!”



# Emptying Your Cup

The LORD heard Elijah's cry, and the boy's life returned to him, and he lived. <sup>23</sup> Elijah picked up the child and carried him down from the room into the house. He gave him to his mother and said, "Look, your son is alive!"

<sup>24</sup> Then the woman said to Elijah, "Now I know that you are a man of God and that the word of the LORD from your mouth is the truth."



# Emptying Your Cup

a) death and an unusual response

- 'reminded me of my sin'

b) Elijah goes to God

- persists until he has an answer

- 3 times beseeches the Lord

- answer is restored life

- God is recognized as the power



# Emptying Your Cup

## So What

1. Called to be Messengers
  - you will be my witnesses....
  - can have the message rejected
  - can lead to places of isolation, depending solely on God, accepting his provision for needs.
  - God will supply in these times



# Emptying Your Cup

2. Will you Offer what you have?
  - when God asks, will you offer it?
  - will you act first in faith, knowing God will be faithful to his people
3. Are you able to Plead with God
  - not demanding your way
  - waiting on a response

