

Describe a time when you were overwhelmed, and someone came alongside to help you?

How important is it for you to say to others who are feeling overwhelmed, “How can I help you?”

God often wants to meet our needs by starting with what we already have...

Read **John 6:1-13**.

Summarize this story.

How much food did the disciples find among the crowd?

What was their reaction to so little food for so big a crowd?

What was the result?

If Jesus was to ask you what you have, what would your response to Him be?

Read **2 Corinthians 4:7-12**.

What does it mean to have treasure in earthen vessels/jars of clay?

We may feel as if we have little to offer in service to the Lord. How does this kind of thinking limit our ministry effectiveness?

How can God using ordinary people like us bring Him even greater glory?

GRACE NOTES

Message: **ELISHA - Filling Jars**

Scripture: 2 Kings 4:1-7

Date: Sunday, September 20, 2015

The wife of a man from the company of the prophets cried out to Elisha, “Your servant my husband is dead, and you know that he revered the Lord. But now his creditor is coming to take my two boys as his slaves.”

Elisha replied to her, “How can I help you? Tell me, what do you have in your house?” “Your servant has nothing there at all,” she said, “except a small jar of olive oil.”

WHEN WE ARE OVERWHELMED, WE NEED SOMEONE TO COME ALONGSIDE US.

“Do to others as you would have them do to you.”
(Luke 6:31)

WHEN WE ARE OVERWHELMED, WE NEED TO CONSIDER WHAT WE HAVE NOT JUST WHAT WE DON'T HAVE.

Even the smallest resources in the hands of God can do great things.

Elisha said, “Go around and ask all your neighbors for empty jars. Don’t ask for just a few. Then go inside and shut the door behind you and your sons. Pour oil into all the jars, and as each is filled, put it to one side.”

She left him and shut the door behind her and her sons. They brought the jars to her and she kept pouring. 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.

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WHEN WE ARE OVERWHELMED, WE NEED TO GET OUR EYES OFF OF WHAT WE CAN'T DO AND GET OUR EYES ON WHAT GOD CAN DO.

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."

WHEN WE ARE OVERWHELMED, NEVER FORGET THAT THIS MOMENT IS ONLY PART OF GOD'S PLAN.

God's plan for you includes this moment, but it is not limited to this moment.

"The way God designed our bodies is a model for understanding our lives together as a church: every part dependent on every other part, the parts we mention and the parts we don't, the parts we see and the parts we don't. If one part hurts, every other part is involved in the hurt, and in the healing. If one part flourishes, every other part enters into the exuberance." (1 Corinthians 12:25-26, MSG)

"With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God." (Mark 10:27)

SERMON STUDY NOTES -

What has God done in your life this week? Share it with the group so that they can celebrate with you!

Can you remember a time when God did something big in your life beginning with something very small in your life? Explain.

Thinking back to the message this past Sunday, what most caught your attention, challenged you, encouraged you, caused you to think or act differently, or left you confused?

Re-read **2 Kings 4:1-7**.

Did you notice anything in the passage today that you didn't see previously?

What two questions did Elisha ask the widow?

What is the significance of these two questions?

Where in your life do you feel overwhelmed? How is that affecting your life right now?

Why do you think our focus is so often on what we don't have and so seldom on what we do have?

What do you think of this statement: When you don't have what you really want, God is all you really need?