

IN TRYING TIMES.

7/23/2023 AM

INTRODUCTION:

A. Read text: 2 Kings 4:1-7.

B. Regarding the text:

1. We all face difficult times in our lives. No Matter how hard we try to avoid them, trying times will find us (**2 Tim. 3:1**). What should we do when that happens?
2. Remember our text. Also think on **Isaiah 41:10-13**.

I. DON'T BECOME BITTER: (2 KINGS 4:1).

A. This woman was in a terrible situation – no doubt she was grief-stricken! How will I pay our bills?"

1. In Old Testament days, a poor widow was in dire straits.
 - 1) Unpaid debts could result in the sons becoming slaves.
 - 2) It would have been easy for her to become discouraged.
2. God provides for us because He wants to (**Luke 17:9-10**).
3. **1 Peter 5:7** He loves and care for us.
4. **2 Chronicles 7:3**.

B. Remember that God is good, no matter what may happen to you.

1. The widow took her needs to God by way His spokesman Elisha.
2. To keep from getting bitter, turn to God (**Matt. 6:33; Heb. 4:16**).

II. FOCUS ON WHAT YOU DO HAVE, NOT WHAT YOU DON'T HAVE (2 KINGS 4:2-3).

A. All she had was a jar of oil. Jar is the Hebrew word for small pot.

1. God was going to take her "nothing except" and turn it into "something exceptional."
2. Remember Jesus fed the 5,000 men plus women and children (**John 6:1-15**).

B. So, start working with the dimes you do have instead of the dollars you don't have (Matt. 25:14-30**).**

III. PUT YOUR FAITH INTO ACTION (2 KINGS 4:5-7).

A. Elisha gave the woman instructions, which she might have thought quite strange, (2 Kings 4:3** "borrow not a few.").**

1. What is important to note is that she stepped out in faith and obeyed.
2. The person of faith gets up and does what God wants him to do (**James 1:22; 2:17-24**).

B. The faithful will be rewarded (Dan. 3:17-18; Luke 17:19; 1 Pet.1:5**).**

IV. CONCLUSION:

A. Tough times come to all of us.

B. To endure them and to glorify God, don't become bitter, focus on what you have, not what you don't have, and put your faith in action.

C. Do not ever give up and give over to the world.

D. Obey the gospel to the very end.