

Give More

Our Master said, "Give more!"

When our Master told the story of the widow of Zarephath, he was trying to make a clear point.

Lk 4:25-26 – "But I say to you in truth, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Eliyah, when the sky was shut up for three years and six months, when a great famine came over all the land; and yet Eliyah was sent to none of them, but only to Zarephath, in the land of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow."

1 Kng 17:9-16 – "Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and stay there; behold, I have commanded a widow there to provide for you."

So he arose and went to Zarephath, and when he came to the gate of the city, behold, a widow was there gathering sticks; and he called to her and said, "Please get me a little water in a jar, that I may drink."

As she was going to get it, he called to her and said, "Please bring me a piece of bread in your hand."

But she said, "As the Lord your God lives, I have no bread, only a handful of flour in the bowl and a little oil in the jar; and behold, I am gathering a few sticks that I may go in and prepare for me and my son, that we may eat it and die."

Then Elijah said to her, "Do not fear; go, do as you have said, but make me a little bread cake from it first and bring it out to me, and afterward you may make one for yourself." "For thus says the Lord God of Israel, 'The bowl of flour shall not be exhausted, nor shall the jar of oil be empty, until the day that the Lord sends rain on the face of the earth.'"

So she went and did according to the word of Elijah, and she and he and her household ate for many days.

The bowl of flour was not exhausted nor did the jar of oil become empty, according to the word of the Lord, which He spoke through Elijah.

The prophet Eliyah was coming in the name of YHWH. He said to a widow who was passing by, "Give me a little something to drink in a jar..." This was within her means to do. Though it was a drought in the land, she must have had a little bit and she was willing to help Eliyah. She could tell he was a man of God and somehow our Father had commanded her to help him. When Eliyah saw her willingness... he asked for more!

He was able to work with her willing heart... to go ahead and ask of her the impossible. "Bring me some bread also," she was willing but wanted to make sure he realized that she was at the end of her supply. She clearly spelled out the situation... "My son and I will die today of hunger once I have made my last little loaf..."

What she had left was not even enough to sustain her son and herself for the rest of the day. Yet, now our Father was asking more of her. But, she was willing... At the word of our Father she took hope in his promise. She gave the impossible. She gave first without even seeing her oil and flour reserves replenished as the promise stated. She gave before she saw the promised fulfilled. She sat down together with the prophet and ate her last meal with her son. But her giving was rewarded...

Much later came another widow of whom our Master took notice...

It happened one day in the temple... And even the poor widow who had only just a little bit, just enough to make it herself, gave! And her sacrificial giving was considered as MORE than all the others... she spent her last cent.

That kind of giving our Master took notice of!

Mk 12:43-44 – And calling His disciples to Him, He said to them, "Truly I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the contributors to the treasury; for they all put in out of their surplus, but she, out of her poverty, put in all she owned, all she had to live on."

Are His people asked to give more... to give more than they are really able to give? And will He leave them to starve if they do that???

The Good Samaritan

Lk 10:35 – "And on the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper and said, 'Take care of him; and whatever *more you spend*, when I return, I will repay you.'"

When the Good Samaritan spoke to the innkeeper to use what he had given him to care for the poor man, he added, "Whatever you spend more... I will repay you when I come again." That was a promise! If he had to spend more than what he had been given he should not worry, just go ahead and spend it, and when the man returned he would repay him. If you have to spend more... it will be repaid you!