First Fruits First Placing Limits on God July 1, 2001

*Now it came to pass, when the vessels were full, that she said to her son, “Bring me another vessel.” And he said to her, “There is not another vessel.” So the oil ceased.* [2 Kings 4:6]

This verse concludes a poignant passage regarding Elisha’s blessing of a widow who approached him for help. She was seriously in debt and had come to her wits end as her creditor was about to take her two sons as slaves. Acknowledging her dire circumstance, Elisha asked what she still had. Her response, “Your maidservant has nothing in the house but a jar of oil.”

That was all the prophet needed to know. Her only possession would prove to be the incentive for the Lord’s blessing. The lesson is clear. Whatever we have, when used to glorify God, it is more than enough. In fact, the only thing that prevented the widow from a greater blessing was the lack of more jars. This begs the question, “What do I have in my possession that could be used to honor God?”

My offering of love sets the multiplication of blessings into motion. As long as I bring my donation with a pure heart, God will respond in kind. He will bring restoration, renewal, and a multitude of rewards.

But there’s more; much more. The only thing that caused the oil to stop flowing was the lack of vessels to be filled. There is a clear analogy here that’s easy to skip over. God’s willingness to bless us is only inhibited by our willingness, or lack thereof, to receive all of what He offers.

Likewise, when we don’t give all that we have to offer to the Lord, we put limits on God. He has far more to give, that we aren’t prepared to receive. Consider the treasures we have left behind.

Knowing of God’s abundant, boundless provision, Elisha advised the widow, “Do not gather just a few.” Elisha did more than restore the widow’s financial standing. He taught her that receiving God’s blessings starts a flow of the Spirit that the Lord will not curtail until there is nothing left to fill.

When the Firstfruit of creation was sent to earth, God opened up the pathway to blessings without limits. Let’s look to our possessions and offer them. Let’s give everything we have to honor our King. Let’s not run short on vessels. Let make ourselves available for all our God wants to give.

Our Heavenly Father’s Spirit, His gifts and His blessings are limitless.