

## There is much He is able to do

Luk 4:18-27 ESV "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim **good news** to the poor. He has sent me to **proclaim** liberty to the captives and **recovering of sight** to the blind, to set at **liberty** those who are oppressed, 19 to proclaim the year of the **Lord's favor**." 20 And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. 21 And he began to say to them, **"Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."**

- There is so much he came to do as Messiah - yet these would miss out

## But they resisted Him - therefore unable to receive from Him

22 And all spoke well of him and marveled at the gracious words that were coming from his mouth. And they said, **"Is not this Joseph's son?"** 23 And he said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Physician, heal yourself.' **What we have heard you did at Capernaum, do here in your hometown as well.**"

- Was it Familiarity?
- Was it Unbelief?

## The Widow and the Leper - Jesus points to two stories about receiving from Him

24 And he said, "Truly, I say to you, no prophet is acceptable in his hometown. 25 But in truth, I tell you, **there were many widows in Israel** in the days of Elijah, when the heavens were shut up three years and six months, and a great famine came over all the land, 26 and **Elijah was sent to none of them but only to Zarephath**, in the land of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow. 27 And **there were many lepers in Israel** in the time of the prophet Elisha, and **none of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian.**"

- There were MANY widows - Elijah was sent to ONE
- There were MANY lepers - Elisha was sent to ONE

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## Elijah - And the widow at Zarephath

1Ki 17:1-16 ESV Now Elijah the Tishbite, of Tishbe in Gilead, said to Ahab, "As the LORD, the God of Israel, lives, before whom I stand, there shall be neither dew nor rain these years, except by my word." 2 **And the word of the LORD came to him:** 3 **"Depart** from here and **turn eastward** and **hide yourself by the brook Cherith**, which is east of the Jordan. 4 You shall drink from the brook, and **I have commanded the ravens to feed you there.**" 5 **So he went and did according to the word of the LORD.** He went and lived by the brook Cherith that is east of the Jordan. 6 And the ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning, and bread and meat in the evening, and he drank from the brook.

- **The word of the LORD** came to him
  - (Depart...turn eastward...hide by the brook and drink) - all things he could do, but must obey
- I have commanded the ravens to feed you - (something only God could do)
- He went and did according to the word of the LORD
- **The BLESSING followed the OBEDIENCE**

7 And after a while the brook dried up, because there was no rain in the land. 8 **Then the word of the LORD came to him,** 9 "Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. Behold, **I have commanded a widow there to feed you.**" 10 So he arose and went to Zarephath.

- Elisha once again follows in obedience to the word of the LORD
- Once again the LORD promises to provide for Him

## How Responsive Are We, When We Are Called to Respond in Obedience

And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, a widow was there gathering sticks. And he called to her and said, "**Bring me a little water in a vessel, that I may drink.**" 11 And as she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, "**Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand.**" 12 And she said, "As the LORD your God lives, I have nothing baked, **only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug.** And now I am gathering a couple of sticks that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, **that we may eat it and die.**"

- She has lost hope
- No problem with getting him the water - she seemed to have enough - she was going to get it
- There was a problem with the bread - she is ready to eat her last meal

## What Did God Say He Had Commanded the Widow? -- to Feed Him

13 And Elijah said to her, "**Do not fear; go and do as you have said. But first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me,** and afterward make something for yourself and your son. 14 For **thus says the LORD,** the God of Israel, 'The **jar of flour shall not be spent, and the jug of oil shall not be empty, until the day that the LORD sends rain upon the earth.**' 15 And **she went and did as Elijah said.** And she and he and her household ate for many days. 16 The jar of flour was not spent, neither did the jug of oil become empty, according to the word of the LORD that he spoke by Elijah.

- Elijah spoke to her fear
- He let her know this is what the LORD said
- She went and DID - the flour and the oil never ran out
- OBEDIENCE before BLESSING

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## Elisha and Naaman the Leper

### **Naaman was A GREAT Man who had Leprosy**

2Ki 5:1-18 ESV Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Syria, was a great man with his master and in high favor, because by him the LORD had given victory to Syria. **He was a mighty man of valor, but he was a leper.** 2 Now the Syrians on one of their raids **had carried off a little girl from the land of Israel,** and she worked in the service of Naaman's wife.

- God wanted to bless Naaman
- He had given him victory
- And by God's providence brought a little girl from ISRAEL to work in the service of his wife

## She was bold and instilled hope into the heart of Naaman

3 She said to her mistress, "Would that my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! **He would cure him of his leprosy.**" 4 So Naaman went in and told his lord, "Thus and so spoke the girl from the land of Israel." 5 And the king of Syria said, "Go now, and I will send a letter to the king of Israel."

## Naaman prepares to meet the prophet

So he went, taking with him **ten talents of silver**, [\$185,000 in 2020] **six thousand shekels of gold** [\$2,250,000], and **ten changes of clothing.** 6 And he brought the letter to the king of Israel, which read, "When this letter reaches you, know that I have sent to you Naaman my servant, that you may cure him of his leprosy." 7 And when the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, "**Am I God,** to kill and to make alive, **that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy?** Only consider, and see how he is seeking a quarrel with me."

8 But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent to the king, saying, "Why have you torn your clothes? **Let him come now to me, that he may know that there is a prophet in Israel.**"

### Naaman's Expectations

9 So Naaman came with his horses and chariots and **stood at the door** of Elisha's house. 10 And **Elisha sent a messenger** to him, saying, "**Go and wash in the Jordan seven times**, and your flesh shall be restored, and you shall be clean."

- This is a simple command
- No money needed

### Naaman's Pride

11 **But Naaman was angry and went away**, saying, "Behold, **I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call upon the name of the LORD his God**, and wave his hand over the place and cure the leper. 12 **Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel?** Could I not wash in them and be clean?" So he turned and went away in a rage.

### The Appeal of the Wise Servants

13 But his servants came near and said to him, "My father, it is a great word the prophet has spoken to you; will you not do it? Has he actually said to you, 'Wash, and be clean'?"

- 2Ki 5:13 NIV Naaman's servants went to him and said, "My father, if the prophet had told you to do some great thing, would you not have done it? How much more, then, when he tells you, 'Wash and be cleansed!'"

### Naaman Obeyed

14 So he went down and dipped himself seven times in the Jordan, **according to the word of the man of God**, and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean. 15 Then he returned to the man of God, he and all his company, and he came and stood before him. And he said, "Behold, **I know that there is no God in all the earth but in Israel;** so accept now a present from your servant." 16 But he said, "As the LORD lives, before whom I stand, I will receive none." And he urged him to take it, but he refused. 17 Then Naaman said, "If not, please let there be given to your servant **two mules' load of earth, for from now on your servant will not offer burnt offering or sacrifice to any god but the LORD.** 18 In this matter may the LORD pardon your servant: when my master goes into the house of Rimmon to worship there, leaning on my arm, and I bow myself in the house of Rimmon, when I bow myself in the house of Rimmon, the LORD pardon your servant in this matter."

### OBEDIENCE PRECEDES THE BLESSING OF GOD

**Isa 1:19-20 NIV If you are willing and obedient, you will eat the good things of the land; 20 but if you resist and rebel, you will be devoured by the sword." For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.**

- Water was turned to wine when the servants filled the empty pots at the command of Jesus
- Peter received money from the mouth of the fish as he obeyed the LORD's command to fish for taxes
- The 10 lepers were healed, as they went - following the command of Jesus
- The apostles fished all night - caught nothing - but at the word of Jesus lowered the net again