

The Whole Armor of God *Ephesians 6:10-20*

Lesson 3

Feet Shod with the Gospel of Peace

Widow's Oil

I Kings 17:7-16

In order to keep peace in the land, King Solomon married the daughters of foreign kings. The women he married brought with them their foreign gods. This resulted in the Israelites worshipping the false gods and forgetting the one true God. Not only did many of the Israelites turn from God, but Solomon did as well. When Solomon died, the kingdom divided in two. The Southern Kingdom, Judah was ruled by the heirs of David and Solomon, and the Northern Kingdom, Israel was ruled by others. Both kingdoms had many kings and most of them were evil. At the time of today's story, Jezebel the Phoenician princess was Ahab the King's wife. Jezebel was not an Israelite. She was an evil woman. She brought pagan gods to Israel and led the people to worship them. She persecuted the prophets of God and killed many of them.

The first time we read about the Prophet, Elijah is in I Kings 17. Elijah was a settler in Gilead, which is east of the Jordan River near a community called Tishbe. His name means "Yahweh Is God." Elijah was a man of prayer and he had deep concern for his nation (James 5:17).

Introduction

God sent the prophet Elijah to Ahab's palace in Samaria with the warning that there would be no rain for three and a half years. Without rain, the land dried up and the crops failed. For a time, Elijah hid from Ahab and his evil wife Jezebel by

the Brook Cherith where ravens fed him. God then sent Elijah to Zarephath till the famine ended. It is here that a miracle provided oil and flour for a widow.

Progression of Events

Elijah had been staying by the Brook Cherith. Sometime later the brook dried up and God commanded him to go to Zarephath where God said a widow would supply food for him.

- When Elijah came to Zarephath, he saw a widow gathering sticks. He asked, "would you bring me a little water in a jar so I may have a drink?" As the widow went to get water, Elijah called out again and said, "And bring me, please, a piece of bread." Imagine asking a poor widow for water and bread when she and her son were near starvation.
- The widow replied, "As surely as the Lord your God lives, I don't have any bread—only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. I am gathering a few sticks to take home and make a meal for myself and my son, that we may eat it—and die." Elijah's request was a test of faith for both he and the widow.
- Elijah assured the widow that God would provide. He told her to return home and do as she had planned. But first, "make a small cake of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me. Then make something for yourself and your son. Remember, the widow

had said all she had was a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug.

- Elijah continued, “the Lord told me that the jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the Lord gives rain on the land.”
- The widow returned home and did just as Elijah had instructed her.

Climax

As promised, there was food every day for Elijah, the woman and her son. The jar of flour was never used up and the jug of oil never ran dry.

Conclusion

There is no need or request too great for God to provide. “And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:19). God does not say He will supply all our *wants*, but He does say He will supply our needs. God knows you, and He knows your needs better than you do. When prayers are not answered it does not mean that God does not care. He may be helping you to develop patience or faith. Elijah had no idea how God would provide for him, but he trusted God’s promise to provide for him, the widow and her son.

Feet Shod with the Gospel of Peace

A Roman soldier wore shoes different than the ones we wear today. When they went into battle their feet were protected. They wore shoes made of leather with hobnails on the bottom. This kept them surefooted and strong in battle, not slippery. How do you put on the shoes of the gospel of peace? You need to pray each day and ask for God’s peace. You will have peace when you believe God forgives your sins and that He loves you. Jesus Christ is our peace (Ephesians 2:14). When you obey God you please Him. When you please God your feet are shod with the gospel of peace because you have put Jesus Christ in your life. Consequently, you become a positive example for others because you will be kind, tenderhearted, forgiving, building up and not tearing down.

Memory Verse

“Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.” (1 Peter 5:7)

Questions

For class discussion ask your students any of the following:

1. What does Elijah’s name mean?
2. What was the name of the Brook the ravens came to and fed Elijah?
3. Was Elijah a prophet?
4. Define prophet.
5. Do you think it was easy for the widow to feed Elijah before her son?
6. How did the widow know there would be enough flour and oil?
7. What does it mean to trust God?
8. Was there ever something you felt you really needed and God did not supply it?
9. Does this mean that God does not keep His promises?
10. God nourished Elijah physically, how did He nourish Elijah’s faith?
11. How did God provide for the widow and her son?
12. How does God care for you?

Lesson 3

Activity

God promises to us that when we give to others He will give us everything we need. Circle the things in the picture that you would give to someone who needed them. Then color the picture.



“God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Corinthians 9:7).

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Activity

This widow was very poor. She and her son had only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. She did as the prophet Elijah told her and made a small cake of bread for him first. God provided food for the widow and her son. They did not go hungry.



“Give, and it will be given to you” (Luke 6:38).