

Turn Your Setbacks into Comebacks



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When You're Running Out of Everything

The Miracle in Zarephath

When he reached the town gate, Elijah saw a widow gathering firewood. He asked her, "Would you please bring me a drink of water?" As she was going to get it, Elijah added, "And please bring me a small piece of bread, too."

The woman answered, "As surely as your God lives, I swear I have no bread. I only have a handful of flour left in a small jar and a little olive oil left in a jug. I came to gather some wood so I could go home and cook our last meal. My son and I will eat it and then we'll die of hunger."

"Don't be afraid!" Elijah said. "Go home and first make a small loaf of bread from what you have and bring it to me. Then cook something for yourself and your son. God says, 'I assure you that jar of flour will never be empty, and that jug of oil will never run out, until the day I send rain to the land.'"

So the widow did what Elijah told her to do, and she and her son and Elijah had enough food every day. The jar of flour and the jug of oil never ran out, just as God had promised. (1 Kings 17:10-16)

Why This Doesn't Make Any Sense

1. It's the wrong _____

God is commanding Elijah to leave his safe spot and walk straight into enemy territory. He will have to walk over 100 miles, straight through Israel. And remember, he's a marked man. There are wanted signs for Elijah all over Israel.

2. It's the wrong _____

Zerephath is the hometown of Jezebel. So Elijah must be thinking, "You're sending me to Jezebel's hometown? You've got to be kidding, Lord. All of her friends are there. All of her family is there. I'll be a sitting duck!"

3. It's the wrong _____

Elijah is told to look for the least likely person to protect him when he arrives in Zerephath – a poor, powerless, starving widow. Elijah must have felt like he was going from bad to worse. Perhaps you feel that way also.

Three Things to Remember When You're on the Road

1. The path to a miracle is always _____

Are you at a place in your life when things are a little uncomfortable – financially, emotionally, relationally, physically? Congratulations! You're on the path to a miracle.

2. The source of a miracle is always _____

Have you experienced some setbacks? Maybe you're not being set back, you're being set up ... for a miracle! God says, "My ways are far beyond anything you can imagine! ... Before you even call, I'm working on the answer." (Isaiah 55:6 and 65:24)

3. The pattern to a miracle is always _____

CPR – Command, Promise, Risk. This CPR will really get your heart going! Every time God does a miracle, it always comes in this format. First, God gives you a command; then, He gives you a promise; but, finally, you must take the risk.