

The Bottom of the Bucket

What an amazing time we had together last Sunday! I so appreciate the anointing that we sensed around the altar as we prayed together. I also was also thrilled with the privilege of meeting several new friends who have joined us for worship. God is moving in an astonishing way – I am excited to see what lay in store for His people here at Christian Center. I want to share a thought with you today that I trust will challenge and encourage you.

When it seems as though you are scraping the bottom of the bucket – that means God’s provision is just around the corner.

I bring that statement to you from the story found in I Kings 17 about the widow woman God sent the prophet Elijah to after his great encounter with the Prophets of Baal at Mt. Carmel. As the man of God arrives – he makes a request for this poor little woman to bring him a morsel of bread and a little water to drink. The widow’s response is both candid and honest as she states:

“As the LORD your God lives, I do not have bread, only a handful of flour in a bin, and a little oil in a jar; and see, 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.” – 1 Kings 17:12

In her mind – she has only enough to prepare a small last meal for herself and her son before they die of lack and starvation. **She was literally scraping the bottom of the bucket.** But the prophet makes what many may view as a strange and selfish statement:

And Elijah said to her, "Do not fear; go and do as you have said, but make me a small cake from it first, and bring it to me; and afterward make some for yourself and your son. - 1 Kings 17:13

God was teaching this woman that her supply was not limited to the little she had in the bottom of the bucket. If she could trust God by walking in obedience and faith – she would learn that her supply could be supernaturally unlimited - and she would never have to scrape the bottom of the bucket again! There are some who are reading this right now thinking – I feel like I only have enough to make it one more day. It is not limited to finances – it could be emotional or spiritual strength. You have gone to the “bucket” one too many times – and now all you see is just a little that may sustain you for the day but after that you have nothing left to give.

My word for you is strong today – learn to submit your plans to God and He will make certain that you never run out of what you need again.

This little woman could have continued on with her plans and made that last cake for herself and her son. She could have thought there are many others who can take care of this wayfaring prophet – I need to take care of my family. Had she followed that natural intuition – she would have died and never received her miracle.

Natural plans always yield natural and limited results. The natural ideas you have may last for a short time – but they never sustain us over the long haul.

That is why we are commanded, “**...lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. – Proverbs 3:5-6.** I just know that there are some of you scraping the bottom of the bucket today. You have run out of natural resources and you don’t know what you are going to do. I encourage you right now to obey God in whatever He is leading you to do. It may not make much sense to our natural mind – but that is okay because natural understanding never sees the miraculous. I believe that divine provision has presented itself to you in an unlikely manner and God is testing you whether or not you are ready to obey and walk in faith. I can assure you based on the Word of God – if you do the right thing – you will be have the experience of this widow woman whose “**...bin of flour was not used up, nor did the jar of oil run dry, according to the word of the LORD which He spoke by Elijah.**” 1 Kings 17:16.

Claim today that you will never scrape bottom again but rather you will walk in the supernatural supply of God that only comes through faith and obedience.

Step out today and just see if God meets with you and brings you out of the “bottom of the bucket”!

I look forward to seeing you at the Community Picnic on Saturday at noon – and then again for a dynamic time of worship and the Word on Sunday at 10am. Have a bountiful week in Jesus!

Prospered by Him,

Pastor Mark Lantz