

YOU ARE ENOUGH

Key Verse: 2 Kings 4:1-7

Key Thought: Whatever you have is enough for God to use.

“The wife of a man from the company of the prophets cried out to Elisha, “Your servant my husband is dead, and you know that he revered the Lord. But now his creditor is coming to take my two boys as his slaves.”

Elisha replied to her, “How can I help you?

Tell me, what do you have in your house?”

“Your servant has nothing there at all,” she said,

“Except a small jar of olive oil.”

Elisha said, “Go around and ask all your neighbors for empty jars. Don’t ask for just a few. Then go inside and shut the door behind you and your sons. Pour oil into all the jars, and as each is filled, put it to one side.”

She left him and shut the door behind her and her sons. They brought the jars to her, and she kept pouring. When all the jars were full, she said to her son,

“Bring me another one.”

But he replied, “There is not a jar left.” Then the oil stopped flowing.

She went and told the man of God, and he said, “Go, sell the oil, and pay your debts. You and your sons can live on what is left.”

2 Kings 4:1-7 NIV

This scripture tells the story of a widower whose husband, the son of one of the prophets who had served under Elisha, had passed away, leaving her with no money. Mosaic law prohibited her from declaring bankruptcy—leaving her with no option but to offer her sons as payment for debt. Though she sought wisdom from God through the prophet Elisha, her expectation for God’s provision was at first limited. When Elisha asks in verse 2: “What have you in the house?” she responds, “nothing . . . except a jar of oil.” But a “jar of oil” is more than enough for God. This woman found the answer to her need in her own home.

Elisha’s question is a good one for not only mothers, but all who trust in God: What do you already have that God can use?

I. GOD CAN USE YOUR TALENTS

II. GOD CAN USE YOUR LOVE

III. GOD CAN USE YOU

I. GOD CAN USE YOUR TALENTS

Most of us have a talent, whether it is something we choose to share with others, or keep quietly to ourselves, we are all good at something. I think we tend to underestimate ourselves of what we can do with our talents. What are some examples of talent that God can use?

- Singing – Join the Worship Team.
- Teaching – Volunteer to work with the Children/Youth, or offer to host a Bible Study
- Organization – Volunteer to help plan activities, maybe join the Social Committee
- Cleaning – Volunteer to help clean the church, or to help some elderly or sick in the congregation who could use help cleaning.
- Children/Babies – Volunteer to help a mom who may need some help or support, or childcare to be able to have an income.
- Encouragement – Volunteer to attend Seniors homes, start a Ladies Bible Study in your home, leave encouraging letters for ladies in the church.

And so many more! Take a moment to write down your talents, and then pray and ask God how He wants to use your talents for His purpose! You may be surprised at where He leads you! You may feel like your gift is nothing spectacular, but in reality, it is crucial to the fulfillment of God's plan. As we seek God, He will show us how to use our gifts in ways that will truly benefit others, and He will open the doors for us to do so.

II. GOD CAN USE YOUR LOVE

You may be here today thinking, I don't really have any talents. Although I know that is likely false, the one thing I am assured of is that you have love to give away. This has nothing to do with being a mother, instead, it is something that each one of us can use to bring Glory to God.

Jesus said that no greater love can be expressed than the willingness to lay down your life for another person. This is exactly what Jesus did. In showing us the greatest gift of self-sacrifice through the cross, Jesus teaches us how to love like God loves. This is something that a mother would do for her child.

I think often of my pregnancy for our last child, Meira. I was scared. Meira was a very high-risk pregnancy for me, and to be honest, not a fun pregnancy, considered a “geriatric pregnancy”, meaning I was turning 40 years old, which meant a lot of doctor appointments, usually filled with bad news, or recommendations to end my pregnancy due to many different worries. I was nervous about her delivery, as there were many unknown variables that could come into play. I didn’t want a C-Section, as all my other births were natural. But God had other plans. Meira came into the world by means of C-Section, after both my Aunt Gloria and my dad, Pastor Brad, calling me and telling me that God wanted me to know that if baby was not in position to go for C-Section even though I was scared. Dad later told me that God had also given him the number 3, but he didn’t know why. During the delivery, the nurse looked over the sheet and said “Mom, you had good instincts to go for C-Section because had we turned her, she would have drowned, and would have been born still born.” See the umbilical cord was wrapped around her neck three times. It would have been disconnected from the placenta, and she would have drowned. Instead, as a mother, I did something I didn’t want to do, and in turn, we have a beautiful baby girl.

This is love. Sacrificial love. We seen the purest form of love when Jesus died on the cross for our sins. But I can only imagine how Mary felt watching her son in pain, after being tortured and ridiculed, despite what the cause was. A mother’s love, a woman’s love, is often deep, and full of emotion. Women tend to love with everything they have. True, there are women out there who do not show a proper love to their children, or their husbands, or to anyone for that matter. But if we choose to allow God to use our Love, we can move mountains.

Take a moment to reflect on what God would want you to do with the love He has given you. Is He calling you to take in a child/teenager who doesn’t have a good home life? Is He calling you to make a difference in the life of someone at your workplace, or in your family, who is struggling, feeling alone, maybe in an abusive home, or relationship? The power of a Woman’s love can be an AMAZING thing.

When filled with God's love, we can do and see and understand things that we could not otherwise do or see or understand. Filled with His love, we can endure pain, conquer fear, forgive freely, avoid conflict, renew strength, and bless and help others in ways surprising even to us.

III. GOD CAN USE YOU

Whether or not you are a woman, a mother, a young woman, a teenager, or a child, God can use you! We seem to have this idea that for God to use us, we need to be older, wiser, kinder, more “perfect”. The reality is, God can use every one of us in one way or another. You are a unique person that God has called to do an unusual job for Him. God will use your uniqueness, even your failures and weaknesses to accomplish His purposes.

If you give your heart to Him and strive to walk in faith and compassion on the path the Lord commanded, He will use you. He will use you in ways you cannot right now imagine. “But” you might say, “I’m no one special.” Neither was the woman who went to Elisha. She was a simple woman, and thought she had nothing to offer. God showed her different.

“For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

Ephesians 2:10 NIV

“In a large house there are articles not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are for special purposes and some for common use.”

2 Timothy 2:20

Nowhere in that scripture does it say He won’t use the wood and clay....ALL are for use by God.

Special purposes are where you see leadership. These are the people God uses as Pastors, Elders, Ministry Leaders....and then those for common use – To encourage others, to love others, the “behind the scenes” people who help more than most people know or realize. We are all usable. **Whatever you have is enough for God to use for His good purpose. Give it to Him. Allow Him to use you!**

God has a special purpose for you this morning! He wants to use you for His Glory. All you need to do is be available. Give Him your “jar of oil” in those moments when you think you are going to lose everything you care about, so He can fill it to overflowing, supplying for all your needs. That is the God we serve.

In closing, I want to tell you a story.

It was early one Friday morning; a husband was busily getting ready for work and just before heading out for the day he looked over at his beautiful wife who was just waking up and she had a big smile on her face.

She said, "Honey, I'll bet you don't know what day this is!" Her husband, who had a horrible time keeping dates straight in his head and was notorious for confusing or forgetting special days, smiled back, brain momentarily paralyzed, said, "Sweetheart, how could I ever forget. This is a special day for us!" Then, he quickly walked out the door to work.

He was in mental fog all day. He couldn't focus on his work because he kept trying to figure out what was so special about that day. For the life of him, which may very well have been at stake, he could not remember his wife's birthday or their anniversary. As the day wore on, he became more and more nervous. He did not want to go home and face his wife. He didn't want to disappoint his wife.

He devised a plan. On the way home, he stopped by the florist and picked out an expensive and beautiful bouquet of flowers. He called the fanciest restaurant in town and made a reservation for two. Then, he called and managed to get tickets to the Broadway musical that was in town. He pulled in the driveway, rushed in the house, gave his wife a big kiss and told her to put her favorite dress on because they were going out for a night on the town to celebrate.

On the way home, his wife leaned over, put her head on his shoulder and said, "This was a great evening." And it was. They had a wonderful evening. They had an expensive evening. He'd spent \$500 to celebrate this special day even though he still didn't know what they were celebrating. Then his wife said, "Best Ground Hog Day ever!"

Well, we know what today is. It's not Ground Hog Day. It's Mother's Day. I hope that today you make the women in your life feel important and so special. I hope you make it a point to tell your wife, your mother or the motherly example in your life, your sister, your daughter, that they are ENOUGH! Make sure they know they are EVERYTHING you asked God for.

Place: FCA

Date: May 14, 2023 – Mother's Day

Time: 10:30am

After Service Song: F E - THIS IS MY DESIRE