



DEVOTIONAL MESSAGE

The Lord needs it ... *By Gareth*

READ: LUKE 19:31

- This passage of scripture speaks about Jesus' entry into Jerusalem and His request to have the colt or foal. Last week we heard that we are under authority. If that be true and it is true. Surely Jesus needs the things you and I have – our time, talent, gifts and service – and the big question is whether or not you or I are willing to let go and entrust them to him.
- This is nothing new, as far as the Bible is concerned. For example, in the Old Testament God sent the prophet Elijah to a widow in Zarephath with a special blessing. When he got there, he found the woman gathering sticks. He said, **"Bring me a drink of water in a vessel that I may drink"**
- Well, he'd traveled a long way. Was that too much to ask? But he didn't stop there. He said, "And, while you're at it, bring me a morsel of bread in your hand." It just so happened that the woman was destitute. She and her son were on the verge of starvation. She said,

**"As the Lord your God lives, I don't have a cake,
but a handful of meal in the jar, and a little oil in the jar.
Behold, I am gathering two sticks,
that I may go in and bake it for me and my son,
that we may eat it, and die."** (1 Kings 17:12)

- You'd think that, upon hearing the woman's plight, Elijah would've said, "Well, then, let me get you something to eat." But no He said,

**"Don't be afraid
Go and do as you have said;
but make me of it a little cake first,
and bring it out to me,
and afterward make some for you
and for your son."** (1 Kings 17:13)

- On the surface, it sounds preposterous: Feed me first. Turns out, it was a test of faith: Put God first and your needs will be supplied. Well, she did as he asked. She fed Elijah first, and, sure enough, no matter how much cooking she did, her jar of meal never ran out, and her jug of oil never ran dry. (1 Kings 17:8-14). And what about the widow's mite? Jesus and his disciples were watching folks offering their gifts at the temple when this poor widow walked up and put in her last two pennies. Jesus said,

**"Most certainly I tell you,
this poor widow gave more
than all those who are giving into the treasury,
for they all gave out of their abundance,
but she, out of her poverty,
gave all that she had to live on."** (Mark 12:43-44)

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WEEKLY EVENTS/NOTICES

- It's a consistent theme in the Bible: When you're willing to trust God with what you have, God will bless you more abundantly than you can ever imagine. In a moment of disbelief, Peter said, "Lord, we left everything to follow you, and what do we have to show for it?" (Matthew 19:27) Jesus said,

*"Everyone who has left houses,
or brothers, or sisters,
or father, or mother,
or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake,
will receive one hundred times,
and will inherit eternal life."
(Matthew 19:27, 29)*

- Put what you have in God's hands, and God will bless you more abundantly in return. So, why don't we do it?
- I can think of a couple of reasons. One, the need is so great and we have so little, by comparison: Feed the hungry, house the homeless, save the lost? What difference will my paltry little contribution make?
- Never think what you have to offer isn't important. Whether it's your time, your talent or your money, every gift counts, however great or small. God isn't asking you to save the world, only to be faithful and let him use what you have to his glory.
- We hold back because we don't think we have much to offer. That's one reason. We also hold back because – well, to be honest – we don't want to let go of what we have. Like a two-year-old, a little voice inside of us screams, "It's mine, and you can't have it!"
- Whatever the reason, it comes back to the question of faithfulness and what you're going to say when that little voice inside you whispers, "The Lord has need of it."

Events /Notices

- ▶ **Date of Baptism Service** to be confirmed soon
- ▶ **Next Bible Study** is scheduled for *Friday the 8th of December.*