

**Intro:** Kid used to love PacMan...one of first video games...Eat dots...

As an adult...sometimes I feel like one of the dots! Everywhere I go...someone wants a piece of me  
Toughest lessons of the spiritual life are learning how to give...when we have given out!

Not just financial, though it includes that: Much more

*Emotional:                      Spiritual                      Relationship                      Work                      Financial*

Giving When You Give Out

Elijah/Widow

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### **1. Everyone Gives Out at Some time in their Life. Vs**

*Both of the people in the story are in exactly the same position!*

- **Elijah:** Man Committed to God Brook dries up
- **Widow:** Not a faithful believer: (Your God!) Vs One last bit of flour

*God allows it to rain on the just and unjust, knowing Him is not a "silver bullet" against trouble*

*If you know God, committed to serving Him, sooner or later, you just give out!*

*Tapped out...Nothing left to give...Reached bottom*

### **2. God Always Makes Provision For His People.**

- **Elijah:**

*Comes in different ways!*

Natural: Brook

Supernatural: Ravens

People: God

*Changes at different times!*

We like: Stability, Assurance, Always Present, Unending, Predictable

God teaches us to depend upon Him Day by Day!

**Illus:** ~Manna ~Lord's Prayer

**Elijah:** What you have been depending on, God's provision is gone...Comfort level is gone

**Now you have to depend on me AGAIN, ANEW, FRESH for today!**

**Question:** *Has your brook dried up today?*

Were you led by God to a specific place, in that place He provided for you...wonderful ways...

But now...The brook is dry: What WAS a source of provision...now dry and empty...

Time to move to God's new plan! Time to hear from Him for Today

Can't live on yesterday's Manna! Have to collect it fresh from Him every day

- **Widow** Was out! Unless she honored God! I believe she spoke the truth...We will eat and die...  
Provision for her came when she decided to honor God, trust Him implicitly

*Here is the faith Factor at work!*

From Every human perspective, Elijah's request was ridiculous!

~Water: 3 ½ yr drought

~Food: I have nothing left

Don't Be Afraid: Vs 14 This is what the Lord Says!

**Key Principle:** *You don't know the truth of any circumstance...until you hear from God!*

Her "truth" was she was out...Nothing Left

God challenged her to trust Him, to serve Him, and Other before herself..

From a human perspective...This is crazy!

Spiritual Truth here that you cannot miss

### **3. When You Make the Choice To Honor God With What You Have, He Multiplies It!**

Vs 13: Don't be afraid...Go Home, Do as you Said....BUT FIRST!

God wants to be first in your life.

The lesson here is so clear, and so simple, and yet so profound

What we want to do is take care of ourselves first, and then serve God out of the leftovers!

- Time            Energy            Money            Service

When you do that...you cut yourself off from the greatest source of blessing in your life

We allow the fear...to keep us from trusting God! And that short circuits His work in us!

I believe with all my heart that if the Widow had refused Elijah's request...Her words were true

But, instead, she trusted God...Put him first, so God multiplied what she had!

I have seen it over and over and over again

**Principle is true however you apply it:** Put *God first, Honor Him*, & He will multiply what You have  
I don't have the ability to give...Start tithing, see what happens. It wont work on paper God make it work  
I don't have time to serve God. Start Serving: See if He doesn't give you more time to do that  
I don't have time to take care of anyone else...Start Caring...

**The Choice to Honor God always leads to Him Multiplying What we have to make it sufficient**

### **4. God Wants to Give You More Than Your Daily Bread: He Wants To Give Us Life!**

Raising of the son illustrates this: He provided for the widow physically,

But He wanted more than that for her! He wanted her to walk with Him, talk with Him, know Him

So, He allowed the loss of her son...so that He could demonstrate His love and care

- Not Just the loss of her son...all her support, security, provision

God is saying to her...Trust me!

We know that...Because God uses Elijah to give her back her son, security, support, provision

Listen: God wants to Give you more than just your daily bread as well...Wants to Give you life  
Gospel Presentation

### **So, How Do You Keep Giving When You have given out?**

1. Open your heart to Him, let him give you life and strength...This is life, to know the Father
2. If you know Him, Put Him first...In your time, finances, service, heart,
3. When tough times come...don't always assume bad thing...sometimes God is teaching you
4. Faith involves both teaching others...and trusting for yourself!  
(Elijah taught Ahab, king, Widow...But he still had to learn from himself...brook dried up!)

**April 20      When Circumstances Close In      Peter Mt 14**

1. Choose to Go in the Right Direction  
    “if its you tell me to come”
2. Don't make the mistake of looking at the Circumstances instead of Jesus  
    Saw the wind and waves (they were always there!)  
    Took his eyes off Jesus
3. Choose to Call out to Jesus when you need help  
    Gospel Invitation