

Sermon Reflection

Sermon Series: Preparing for What God Wants to Do

Sermon Title: Are You Ready for the Oil? – September 6, 2026

Scripture

2 Kings 4:1–7 (NIV)

Key Thought

Sometimes it's not a lack of faith that keeps us from receiving what we've been believing God for; sometimes it's a lack of preparation. If we believe God is going to move, our preparation should reflect our expectation.

Overview

In 2 Kings 4, a widow comes to Elisha facing a desperate situation. She has debt she cannot pay, creditors are threatening to take her sons, and all she can see is what she does not have. Yet God begins His work with the little she already possesses.

The widow's story reminds us that preparation and faith go together. She had to recognize what was already in her house, gather empty jars before the oil began to flow, and trust God with the increase. Sometimes God is ready to pour, but we must be prepared to receive.

Point 1

Start With What You Have

Scripture

2 Kings 4:2 (NIV)

"Your servant has nothing there at all," she said, "except a small jar of olive oil."

Reflection

The widow initially focused on what she did not have. Yet hidden inside her answer was something God could use: a small jar of oil.

We can become so focused on what is missing that we overlook what God has already placed in our hands. What seems small or insignificant to us may be exactly where God chooses to begin.

Reflection Questions

What has God already placed in my hands?

Am I overlooking something because it seems too small?

Have I been focusing more on what I lack than on what I have?

This Week's Application

Take inventory of what God has already given you.

Stop dismissing small beginnings.

Offer what you have to God and allow Him to use it.

Point 2

Prepare for More Than You Can See

Scripture

2 Kings 4:3 (NIV)

"Go around and ask all your neighbors for empty jars. Don't ask for just a few."

Reflection

Before there was more oil, there had to be more room. The widow was instructed to gather empty jars while she still had only one small jar of oil. Her preparation had to reflect an expectation for something she could not yet see.

Faith does not only believe that God can do more. Faith prepares for more. Sometimes our preparation becomes evidence that we truly expect God to move.

Reflection Questions

Does my preparation reflect what I say I believe?

Am I making room for what I have been asking God to do?

What do I need to prepare now for what I am trusting God for later?

This Week's Application

Prepare for what you have been praying about.

Make room for new opportunities and responsibilities.

Let your preparation demonstrate your expectation.

Point 3

Trust God for the Increase

Scripture

2 Kings 4:6 (NIV)

"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."

Reflection

The widow could gather the jars, but she could not produce the oil. Her responsibility was preparation; the increase belonged to God.

There are things we can do and things only God can do. We can prepare, work, pray, and obey, but ultimately, we must trust God with the results. Our responsibility is to be faithful with what He has given us and leave the increase in His hands.

Reflection Questions

Am I trusting God with the outcome after I have done my part?

Where am I trying to produce something that only God can provide?

Am I trusting God will provide, or worrying about how it will happen?

This Week's Application

Do what God has placed within your responsibility.

Release the results you cannot control.

Trust God to provide the increase in His way and His timing.

Living It Out This Week

Use what God has already given you.

Prepare for what you are believing God to do.

Trust God with the increase.

Pastoral Encouragement

You may look at what you have right now and wonder how it could ever be enough for where you believe God is taking you. But the widow's story reminds us that God does not need us to have everything; He asks us to trust Him with what we have. Start with what is in your hands, prepare room for what you are believing Him to do, and trust Him with what happens next. You may not see the oil yet, but that does not mean God is not preparing to pour. **If you truly believe God is going to do it, prepare like He is.**

Closing Prayer

Lord, thank You for what You have already placed in our hands. Help us recognize what we have, prepare faithfully for what You want to do, and trust You for the increase. Give us faith that not only believes, but prepares. In Jesus' name, Amen.