

# Positioning Ourselves for the Prophetic Future by Self-Humbling & Deep-Cleaning (Prayer Advance - 2022)



## 1 Vessels for Widow's Oil

**2 Kings 4** <sup>1</sup> A certain woman of the wives of the sons of the prophets cried out to Elisha, saying, "Your servant my husband is dead, and you know that your servant feared the LORD. And the creditor is coming to take my two sons to be his slaves."

<sup>2</sup> So Elisha said to her, "What shall I do for you? Tell me, what do you have in the house?" And she said, "Your maidservant has nothing in the house but a jar of oil."

<sup>3</sup> Then he said, "Go, borrow **vessels from everywhere**, from all your neighbors—**empty vessels; do not gather just a few**. <sup>4</sup> And when you have come in, you shall **shut the door behind you and your sons; then pour it into all those vessels, and set aside the full ones**."

<sup>5</sup> So she went from him and shut the door behind her and her sons, who brought the vessels to her; and she poured it out. <sup>6</sup> Now it came to pass, when the vessels were full, that she said to her son, "Bring me another vessel." And he said to her, "There is not another vessel." So the oil ceased.

### 1.1 Empty Vessels

- Bring all the vessels, borrow from the neighbours - pots, pans, bowls, plates of any size – whatever can hold the oil.

- Close the door behind you and your sons – this takes place behind the shut door.

What will save our children and grandchildren from the devil out to get them into slavery?

- Empty vessels – qualification for the pouring of the oil - emptying.

Are we empty? Did we lay down our own agenda and plans and cleverness, and surrender to the Lord?

- Elijah was buzzing with adrenalin after the Mt Carmel victory and the deluge of rain. He had to be emptied of self, of the past victories and failures - for the encounter with the Lord on the mountain of God and receive His plan for the 7000 and the next generation.

Sometimes God pries our fingers open to take away what we are holding on to for our dear life, so that He can place into our hands His highest for our lives for generations to come and into eternity.

### 1.2 Deep-Cleaning Needed

- Deep cleaning the office after Paul was locked in there with covid before letting others come in.

Open all windows, let in the clean fresh air; Strip the bed, wash everything; Spray and wipe all surfaces with germ-killing detergent; spray all furniture with disinfectant.

- Deep cleansing for the bride before the wedding - Deep cleansing facials with all kinds of mud packs, and veg packs.

Drink lots of water to cleanse your system from the inside - cut out sugar, fat, and carbs, and eat healthy.

Esther went through 12 months of preparation before presenting herself before the King, 6 months with myrrh (cleansing disinfectant, mouthwash, toothpaste), and 6 months with sweet spices (beauty treatment).

- Before the oil can be poured into the vessels, not only do they need to be empty, they have to be CLEAN.

**2 Timothy 2** <sup>19</sup> Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity." <sup>20</sup> But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor.

<sup>21</sup> Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.

- God is into deep cleaning on the inside. Jesus rebuked Pharisees for their self-righteous pride for meticulous law observance outside while their inside was full of putrid, rotting wickedness and filth.
- We need to see the resurrected Lord of glory whose eyes are flames of fire, who speaks to His Church with swords coming out of His mouth, so we will truly repent and humble ourselves.

### 1.3 David the 'Great Repenter'

- Great grace for sinners flows out from King David's life because he found God's great grace of repentance.

To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David when Nathan the prophet went to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.

**Psalm 51** <sup>1</sup> Have mercy upon me, O God, According to Your lovingkindness;  
According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, Blot out my transgressions.

<sup>2</sup> Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin.

<sup>3</sup> For I acknowledge my transgressions, And my sin *is* always before me.

<sup>4</sup> Against You, You only, have I sinned, And done *this* evil in Your sight—

That You may be found just when You speak, *And* blameless when You judge.

<sup>5</sup> Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me.

<sup>6</sup> Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts, And in the hidden *part* You will make me to know wisdom.

<sup>7</sup> Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

<sup>8</sup> Make me hear joy and gladness, *That* the bones You have broken may rejoice.

<sup>9</sup> Hide Your face from my sins, And blot out all my iniquities.

<sup>10</sup> Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me.

<sup>11</sup> Do not cast me away from Your presence, And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.

<sup>12</sup> Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, And uphold me *by* Your generous Spirit.

<sup>13</sup> *Then* I will teach transgressors Your ways, And sinners shall be converted to You.

<sup>14</sup> Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, The God of my salvation,  
*And* my tongue shall sing aloud of Your righteousness.

<sup>15</sup> O Lord, open my lips, And my mouth shall show forth Your praise.

<sup>16</sup> For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give *it*; You do not delight in burnt offering.

<sup>17</sup> The sacrifices of God *are* a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart - These, O God, You will not despise.

<sup>18</sup> Do good in Your good pleasure to Zion; Build the walls of Jerusalem.

<sup>19</sup> Then You shall be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness,

With burnt offering and whole burnt offering; Then they shall offer bulls on Your altar.

**Psalm 19** <sup>9</sup> The fear of the LORD *is* clean, enduring forever;

The judgments of the LORD *are* true *and* righteous altogether.

<sup>10</sup> More to be desired *are* *they* than gold, Yea, than much fine gold;

Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.

<sup>11</sup> Moreover by them Your servant is warned, *And* in keeping them *there is* great reward.

<sup>12</sup> Who can understand *his* errors? Cleanse me from secret *faults*.

<sup>13</sup> Keep back Your servant also from presumptuous *sins*; Let them not have dominion over me.

Then I shall be blameless, And I shall be innocent of great transgression.

<sup>14</sup> Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart

Be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer.

**Psalm 139** <sup>23</sup> Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties;

<sup>24</sup> And see if *there is any* wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting.

- We need ever-deepening self-humbling to stay in God's grace that will wash us. All water flows downwards and pools in the lowest place.

## 2 Elisha and Elijah's Mantle

**2 Kings 2** <sup>1</sup> And it came to pass, when the LORD was about to take up Elijah into heaven by a whirlwind, that Elijah went with Elisha from Gilgal. <sup>2</sup> Then Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here, please, for the LORD has sent me on to Bethel."

But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives, and as your soul lives, I will not leave you!" So they went down to Bethel.

<sup>3</sup> Now the sons of the prophets who were at Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that the LORD will take away your master from over you today?"

And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent!"

<sup>4</sup> Then Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here, please, for the LORD has sent me on to Jericho."

But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as your soul lives, I will not leave you!" So they came to Jericho.

<sup>5</sup> Now the sons of the prophets who were at Jericho came to Elisha and said to him, "Do you know that the LORD will take away your master from over you today?"

So he answered, "Yes, I know; keep silent!"

<sup>6</sup> Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here, please, for the LORD has sent me on to the Jordan."

But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as your soul lives, I will not leave you!" So the two of them went on. <sup>7</sup> And fifty men of the sons of the prophets went and stood facing them at a distance, while the two of them stood by the Jordan. <sup>8</sup> Now Elijah took his mantle, rolled it up, and struck the water; and it was divided this way and that, so that the two of them crossed over on dry ground.

**<sup>9</sup> And so it was, when they had crossed over, that Elijah said to Elisha, "Ask! What may I do for you, before I am taken away from you?"**

**Elisha said, "Please let a double portion of your spirit be upon me."**

<sup>10</sup> So he said, "You have asked a hard thing. Nevertheless, if you see me when I am taken from you, it shall be so for you; but if not, it shall not be so." <sup>11</sup> Then it happened, as they continued on and talked, that suddenly a chariot of fire appeared with horses of fire, and separated the two of them; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.

<sup>12</sup> And Elisha saw it, and he cried out, "My father, my father, the chariot of Israel and its horsemen!" So he saw him no more. And he took hold of his own clothes and tore them into two pieces. <sup>13</sup> He also took up the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and went back and stood by the bank of the Jordan. <sup>14</sup> Then he took the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and struck the water, and said, "Where is the LORD God of Elijah?" And when he also had struck the water, it was divided this way and that; and Elisha crossed over.

### 2.1 Hour of Separation, Decision and Transition

- Jordan River is the place of transition: Moses to Joshua, Elijah to Elisha, John the Baptist to Jesus Christ  
We are in that place of transition.

- Elisha knew Elijah was going to be taken away. All the young prophets in each city knew. That prophetic anointing and revelation are not enough.

Jordan has to be crossed - there must be an act of commitment from which there is no return.

It was the hour of transition into God's primary calling, separation unto His purpose, an hour of decision.

It was so for Joshua. It was so for Jesus.

- Elijah threw his prophet's mantle on Elisha when God told him to anoint Elisha to succeed him as a prophet in his place. Elisha was a rich farmer's son, plowing the land with 12 yokes of oxen!

He followed Elijah for 10 years before he took hold of the prophetic mantle & inherited the prophetic call.

- After they crossed the Jordan, there were no more 'sons of the prophets' distracting Elisha.

There Elijah turned to Elisha and asked, 'Ask! What do you want me to do for you?'

When God asks such questions, He is looking for faith – commitment – 'Do you really want it?'

Elisha didn't have to think twice – he knew what he wanted, 'Double-portion of your spirit.'

- It might be very wise for us to think about what we really want from the Lord as clearly as we can articulate it.

God appeared to Solomon in a dream, and said 'Ask for anything.' Solomon was ready, 'Wisdom to rule Your people well.'

- Elisha probably took no break after they crossed the Jordan. He was glued to Elijah, his eyes were glued on him. And he ended up receiving the double portion of Elijah's spirit.

He could carry the heavy anointing because of the hidden years serving Elijah as his servant – those years gave him the character that can carry the mantle of Elijah.

- The cloud size of man's fist that Elijah prayed for – I believe it has arisen over God's church in Australia, and it will mushroom into storm clouds that will cover the heavens with the spirit of prayer and supplication over our land, and rain down the deluge of God's Spirit over our nation.

### 3 Strategic Barrenness

**Isaiah 54** <sup>1</sup> "Sing, O barren, You *who* have not borne!

Break forth into singing, and cry aloud, You *who* have not labored with child!

For more *are* the children of the desolate Than the children of the married woman," says the LORD.

<sup>2</sup> "Enlarge the place of your tent, And let them stretch out the curtains of your dwellings;

Do not spare; Lengthen your cords, And strengthen your stakes.

<sup>3</sup> For you shall expand to the right and to the left,

And your descendants will inherit the nations, And make the desolate cities inhabited.

<sup>4</sup> "Do not fear, for you will not be ashamed; Neither be disgraced, for you will not be put to shame;

For you will forget the shame of your youth, And will not remember the reproach of your widowhood anymore.

<sup>5</sup> For your Maker *is* your husband, The LORD of hosts *is* His name;

And your Redeemer *is* the Holy One of Israel; He is called the God of the whole earth.

#### 3.1 Birthing God's Purpose

- All of the chosen mothers in the Scripture were barren – Sarah, Rebekah, Rachel.

Why? So they would know when God finally grants them the children, they belong to the Lord.

God has a complete claim on their sons for His holy purpose that goes beyond our understanding.

- Hannah is the classic example. The years of her suffering as a childless woman and being mercilessly tormented by Peninnah, the 2<sup>nd</sup> wife, she comes to a place of where she cannot bear it anymore. She looks like a drunken woman in the Shiloh temple, pouring out her soul before God.

She births Samuel the Nazarite prophet, and wholly gives her child to the Lord from infancy. Samuel becomes the prophet who anoints the first two kings of Israel and takes Israel's nationhood to a new era.

Peninnah was God's instrument for Hannah, so Hannah would be driven to the place of desperation before the Lord. Without her provoking and tormenting Hanna with her many children, would Hannah have come to the place of making the vow before God that changed the history of Israel and the world?

- Job needed the push of his tormenting friends, so he would face his naked pain and confusion and cry out to God for an encounter. And the revelation of God Job receives transformed him and multitudes.

Hannah's praise becomes Mary's song when she conceives the Son of God.

- Zachariah and Elizabeth were an old couple from the priestly bloodline, suffering the stigma of childlessness. When Zechariah is serving in the temple, chosen by lot among many priests for a lifetime

chance to enter the Holy Place. Gabriel appears before him, and says 'Your prayer is heard, Your wife will bear you a son who will go before the Lord in the spirit and power of Elijah. He will have the ministry of turning the hearts of men and the heart of the nation like Elijah.'

John the Baptist is born, and this child is completely claimed by the Lord to prepare the way for the Messiah.

- Strategic barrenness will give us the depth of cleansing and self-humbling and equip us to birth God's promise.

## 4 Summary

1. God is separating His EMTPY vessels and deep-cleaning them with humility and surrender.
2. God's hand on you began your journey with Him to fulfil His calling for your life – He is bringing you to a place of new separation and consecration and commitment unto Him.
3. God's strategic barrenness for your life was to bring you to a place of total surrender and faith in Him. 'Apart from Me, you can do NOTHING.'
4. Let's learn the fear of the Lord. Resist all forms of pride in our attitude and conduct and speech, and embrace all occasions for self-humbling.

Forsake all boasting, bragging, dropping hints of how much we know, how much we pray, connections we have, etc, and forsake all presumptions that we are better and holier than others, and quickly judging and dismissing other people.

5. Matt 10 <sup>28</sup> 'And fear not those who kill the body, and are not able to kill the soul. But rather fear him who is able to destroy both soul and body into hell.'