

LifeGroup Questions

Based on: 2 Kings 4:1-7

September 15, 2019

Overview:

Extreme debt. In Biblical times people would have to sell themselves into slavery in order to pay off debt. This is exactly what is happening in 2 Kings 4:1-7. A widow during this time would have little to no means of providing for herself. With hardly any resources, she wouldn't be able to pay off the debts of her husband. As a result the creditors were coming to sell her sons into slavery. Even though it is not mentioned in the text they would probably sell her into slavery as well to collect the debt.

Debt causes stress. This widow was facing an unimaginable crisis. Imagine how many sleepless nights she had thinking about the debt. The loss of her husband was amplified by the stress of debt. Her whole life was being turned upside down, not because of moral failure, but because of debt. The consuming power of debt can be debilitating at the best of times and absolutely crushing during difficult times.

She turns to Elisha for help. He instructs her to go and get all the vessels she can find and bring them to her house. Through a miraculous act she is able to fill all the vessels with oil. Selling this oil allowed her to pay back the debt. There was enough left over to provide her and her sons. This widow's life was completely changed by getting rid of her debt.

One thing I noticed in this story is that God just didn't make the debt miraculously disappear. It required obedience and effort on the part of the widow and her sons. Sometimes I think we want God to take care of our problems without making any effort ourselves. Collecting empty jars made no sense. She had no idea what God had planned. She was obedient without knowing all the details.

Bible Study: 2 Kings 4:1-7

1. How does debt cause stress in your life?
2. What would your life look like being debt free?
3. Read Proverbs 22:26-27. What does this passage say about being in debt?
4. What do you consider to be good and bad forms of debt in today's society?
5. What steps can you take to help eliminate debt in your life?
6. In what ways can debt become a hindrance in serving God?

7. In the story of the widow, why was she required to obediently follow the instruction before the debt was eliminated? Why didn't God just eliminate the debt without her?