

## Empty Vessels

- **2024: A Year of the Presence of the Lord.** *It's a year for God's people to become God's shadow and only move when he moves and stay still when he's staying still. The world around you will get darker, more fearful, and more confusing in 2024. There will be events that will shatter the confidence of some and throw entire man-made systems into chaos. But those who have anchored their life in the presence of the Lord will not only survive the dark times, but they will thrive in the dark times and others will look to you for consolation and direction. Practice my presence daily and throughout each day. Long for my presence like you long for oxygen to breathe. Gather together with others who esteem my presence and separate yourself from intimate connections with those who dishonor my presence. The gulf is widening, and the glory is necessary in order for you to know how to take steps of victory. The decision is yours. Choose today and every day. Blessing, presence, wisdom, favor, healing, prosperity, protection, and all that heaven has in store for you. Or struggle, carnality, personal preference, worldly insight, public opinion, and all that Satan wants to throw your way.*
- **Psalm 16:11 (NKJV)** – *You will show me the path of life; In YOUR PRESENCE IS FULLNESS of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.*
- Every answer we need awaits us in the presence of God and He desires to fill us up.
- **John 10:10 (AMP)** – *The thief comes only in order to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance [TO THE FULL, TILL IT OVERFLOWS].*
- God wants to fill our lives with every promise in His word that Jesus paid for.
- **PROBLEM:** *God can't fill us with more of Him if we're already at capacity with the clutter of the world.*

## Empty Vessels

**II Kings 4:1 – 6 (NKJV)** – *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.*

## Lessons:

### 1. God will always work with what you have

- **II Corinthians 8:12 (GNT)** – *If you are eager to give, God will accept your gift ON THE BASIS OF WHAT YOU HAVE to give, not on what you don't have.*
- **QUOTE:** *It is so easy to allow life to draw our attention to what we don't have or what we still need, instead of celebrating what God has already placed in our hand.*
- **Ecclesiastes 11:4 (NCV)** – *Those who wait for PERFECT WEATHER will never plant seeds; those who look at every cloud will never harvest crops.*
- **2024:** *Time to stop waiting on the conditions to be JUST RIGHT before you obey what God is saying.*

## 2. God needs EMPTY VESSELS to fill

- **II Kings 4:3 (NKJV)** – *Then he said, “Go, borrow vessels from everywhere, from all your neighbors —EMPTY VESSELS...*
- **2024:** *God needs us to empty ourselves of anything or anyone that hinders His capacity to fill us up.*
- **Matthew 16:24 (NLT)** – *Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must GIVE UP YOUR OWN WAY, take up your cross, and follow me.*
- **QUOTE:** *The degree to which God fills you up in 2024 will be in direct proportion to the degree you empty out leaving 2023.*

## 3. Some miracles require a change of scenery

- **II Kings 4:4 (NKJV)** – *And when you have come in, you shall SHUT THE DOOR BEHIND YOU and your sons; then pour...*
- She was instructed to shut the door behind her before the miracle could start.
- **QUOTE:** *In our social media generation, some people are more concerned with bringing everyone along for the miracle than creating an atmosphere for God to perform the miracles*

## 4. God will fill as long as we have capacity

- **II Corinthians 4:2 (NKJV)** – **But we have RENOUNCED the hidden things of shame...**
- **Renounce** – **to formally declare that you have abandoned something; to give up, refuse, or reject.**
- **Mark 3:14 (GNT)** – *and he chose twelve, whom he named apostles. “I have chosen you TO BE WITH ME,” he told them. “I will also send you out to preach,*
- **QUOTE:** *The disciples’ PRIMARY CALLING was the same as ours. Above everything else, we are called TO BE WITH JESUS.*