

CHRIST The "Light Unto My Path" – a widow at Zarephath, her son & the prophet Elijah - giving all you have, trusting GOD & receiving blessings by Bishop Robert Barron



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"During a period of intense drought, the prophet Elijah comes to the town of Zarephath, where he meets a widow gathering sticks. He asks the woman for food and drink. When she responds that she has precisely enough to provide one last meal for herself and her son before they die, he says, with almost comic... [nonchalant], "Make me a little cake and bring it to me."

[I KINGS 17:11]

The lady has just told the prophet that she has practically nothing left, and yet he asks her to give. Trusting in the holy man, perhaps hoping against hope, she does what he commands and "the jar of flour did not go empty, nor the jug of oil run dry, as The LORD had foretold through Elijah."

[I KINGS 17:16]

The miracle is meant to illustrate a basic Truth of the spiritual life, which Saint John Paul II characterized as "the law of the gift." It can be articulated as follows: "your being increases in the measure that you give it away."

By a natural instinct, we cling to the goods of the world and try thereby to protect and aggrandize ourselves. But this conduces, paradoxically, to a diminishment of the self; we find that we lose the little that we think we have.

On the other hand, when we give away that which we have received through GOD's Grace, we find that more Grace arrives. And when we give that away, still more arrives, and then still more, until we discover, finally, "water welling up to eternal life."

[JOHN 4:14]

Or, as JESUS puts it in the Sermon on The Plain in The Gospel of Luke: "Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap."

[LUKE 6:37-38] \*

I KINGS 17:10-16

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Elv6XLO5Lqs>

10 So he [the prophet Elijah] arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, the widow woman was there gathering of sticks: and he called to her, and said, Fetch me, I pray thee, a little water in a vessel, that I may drink.

11 And as she was going to fetch it, he called to her, and said, Bring me, I pray thee, a morsel of bread in thine hand.

12 And she said, As The LORD thy GOD liveth, I have not a cake, but an handful of meal in a barrel, and a little oil in a cruse: and, behold, I am gathering two sticks, that I may go in and dress it for me and my son, that we may eat it, and die.

13 And Elijah said unto her, Fear not; go and do as thou hast said: but make me thereof a little cake first, and bring it unto me, and after make for thee and for thy son.

14 For thus saith The LORD GOD of Israel, The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that The LORD sendeth rain upon the earth.

15 And she went and did according to the saying of Elijah: and she, and he, and her house, did eat many days.

16 And the barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail, according to The Word of The LORD, which He spake by Elijah.

\*["A Light Unto My Path." Bishop Robert Barron. The Magnificat, 11/17/2021, p 95.]

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