



First United Methodist Church of Hanford
Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.



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“Emptiness”

Elijah said to her, “Don’t be afraid. Go home and do as you have said. But first make a small loaf of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me, and then make something for yourself and your son. For this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the LORD sends rain on the land.’”

1 Kings 17:13-14 (NIV)

Do you ever feel like you are empty? Maybe like the widow at Zarephath, your cupboards are bare and your bank account is empty. Or maybe you are exhausted from dealing with difficult people, conflicts and before and after the elections. And, of course, you are really tired of dealing with the Coronavirus. You look at your jar of oil with only a few drops in it and wonder how you are going to have the strength to deal with everything before you collapse.

All through the Gospels, Jesus asks us to trust Him in a big way. He calls us to put His kingdom first and serve others before ourselves. This seems like a really difficult thing to do when we feel empty. Have you ever read the story of the widow of Zarephath and thought that Elijah sounded a bit unkind when he asked her to feed him when she was in such need. Here she was thinking about making a loaf of bread for her and her son and then they would die. There would be nothing left.

And yet when the woman offered all she had - her insufficient resources to God, He met her and then He supplied enough for her needs and her son's. Not just for that day, but for every day of the famine.

We do not have to pretend to be something we are not with our God. We can come in honesty about our emptiness and ask Him to provide. Then we can follow as He leads us to someone we

can serve. And in the "beautiful economy of the kingdom," as we meet the needs of others, God will meet our needs.

Let us pray: Dear God, thank You for always providing for us. Help us to always be open to opportunities to serve others in Jesus' name. Amen

"Now I can say I Live a Day" (John Wesley)
Pastor Pablo
November 11th, 2020

Online Devotionals

To grow in your relationship with God and others, it is important to have some spiritual disciplines in your life. Below are some helpful websites that will lead you to read scripture, pray, and focus on God.

UPPER ROOM DAILY DEVOTIONAL <https://www.upperroom.org/devotionals>

A daily devotional including scripture lesson and story.

UPPER ROOM DAILY REFLECTIONS <https://upperroombooks.com/neweverymorning/>