

AWARENESS.SKILLS.KNOWLEDGE.

Intergenerational Women's Ministry

St. Matthew AME Church

Reverend Melvin E. Wilson, Pastor|Teacher

29 January 2022

This month provides an overview of how her

Spiritual Gifts

Personality (Presence/Perspective)

Experiences (Positions/Protection)

Cares/Passions

Interest

Abilities

Life Talents

contributes to her special God-given purpose; equipping her to **minister to all God's children.**



“I have learned over the years that when one's mind is made up, this diminishes fear; knowing what must be done does away with fear.”—Rosa Parks

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All Women of the Bible by Herbert Lockyer – Widow of Zarephath

Pages 201-204

AWARENESS

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"Then the woman said to Elijah, 'Now I know that you are a man of God and that the word of the Lord in your mouth is truth.'" ([1Kings.17.24](#)).

Name Meaning

- She is not named in the Bible. Evidently the focus was on what she did and not who she was.
- She lived in the native land of the prophet Elijah's enemy, Jezebel.

Her Position

- She was a widow with child, humble home, small barley field to eke out a frugal living.
- She was raised among those who worshipped "strange gods".
- When famine, the drought struck, she did not know where the next meal would come from.
- Little did the distressed widow realize that deliverance was at hand.

Her Provider

- Godly widows have the promise of divine provision and protection.
- Elijah was a hunted man on the run from godless Queen Jezebel with a price on his head. They never thought of looking for him in the poor home of a starving widow.
- Famine was in the land and the widow, and her son had come to their last meal.
- But she was to be the widow whom God would command to sustain Elijah.
- Hereafter, she and her sons were to live from hand to mouth – from the opened hand of God through Elijah.
- While God had marked her out as the widow to sustain Elijah, she had not received any advance word that the beggar coming to her would be the prophet.
- She obeyed his, the stranger's command for water and food believing what he said about her meal never wasting and the oil not failing until the famine ended.
- This was a woman of true Christian hospitality not knowing she was entertaining an angel.
- Her venture to feed a hungry man was one of faith that would become the evidence of things not seen.
- She served the stranger first proving that "little is much if God is in it."
- God multiplied her flour and oil as Jesus multiplied 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish to feed thousands.
- "Is thy burden hard and heavy? Do thy steps drag wearily? Help to bear thy brother's burden – God will bear both it and thee."

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Her Perplexity

- As time went on the widow must have grown to feel calmly secure with Elijah there.
- One day the home that was miraculously sustained was disturbed when the widow's son suddenly died.
- Why was her son rescued from the death of famine only to die later?
- She felt her son's death was some form of divine judgement for her sins.
- The anguish she felt was to become another trial, test of her faith.

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Her Praise

- "Give me thy son," Elijah said. Taking the lifeless body to his chamber he asked God why He had allowed such a great grief to overtake the widow who had been so kind to him. Three times he stretched himself upon the child and prayed. The Lord heard Elijah and the child's soul was returned to him.
- And the woman said to Elijah, "Now by this I know that thou art a man of God, and that the word of the LORD in thy mouth is truth." (1 King 17:24) KJV

Her Prominence

- It must have been a sad day when God called Elijah to leave, go to King Ahab and after 3 and 1/2 years end the drought.
- The Bible does not tell us anything further about the widow or her son whom God raised from the dead. Yet because of The Lord's reference to her while at the Nazareth synagogue, she is remembered forever.
- As the heathen woman was visited of God, so Christ had come to gather Gentiles, as well as Jews, unto Himself.
- God's favor becomes the portion of those who repent of their sin and accept His Son as their Saviour and Lord.

From the story of this widow, these are things to learn:

- Obedience must come first if we expect God to do anything miraculous.
- With obedience comes blessing.
- With honor comes blessing.
- With faith comes blessing.

**February 26 – Deborah – Pages 40-42
Judges 4 and 5; Hebrew 11:32-34**

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SKILL

Step Sixteen: Dealing With Fear

We can learn valuable lessons from the Widow of Zarephath because we will all, at some point in our lives, face painful and desperate times. Life doesn't show or play favoritism. The Widow of Zarephath challenges us to make time in our hearts and schedules to meet the needs of others, even when life hasn't dealt us the fairest cards. In these moments, we are all tempted to pull out our victim cards, but the Widow did the very opposite.¹

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- Of all people in Zarephath of Sidon, why do you think God sent Elijah to the Widow of Zarephath? Why didn't God send him to someone that had more time & less "issues"?
- Have you ever wondered if you had too many issues to be used by God?
- Do you believe that God has destined you to make a difference in people's lives?

Don't Let Pain Make a Victim of You

Although she was a single mother, a drought had depleted all she had and her hope of survival was almost gone, she was still willing to help and meet Elijah's needs. Despite her limited resources, she served. She didn't let her lack of resources stop her from fulfilling her destiny.

- Where in your life do you feel like you have limited or no resources? Are you allowing these "limitations" to stop you from serving others?
- Are you pulling out your victim card or are you acting like the Widow?
- Who has God put in your path to help serve? Are you serving them?

Don't Let Fear Stop you from Fulfilling your Destiny

- Why do you think Elijah asked her to make him food first before making food for her and her son?
- What do you think it took for her to listen to Elijah instead of give in to her fears?
- What are the risks that you believe God wants you to take? In your relationship with Him? In your relationships (spouse, girlfriend/boyfriend, friends)? In your career? In the community?
- Whose life will you change/impact if you took on your fears by taking a risk?

Little did she know that the very person she risked her life for was the very person that was going to save her son. What if she refused to help Elijah? What would have happened to her son? God brings people into our lives because, often, our destinies are intertwined. When we live by faith and not by fear, we not only fulfill our destinies, but we fulfill the destinies of those that God put in our path!

¹ <https://bacc.cc/destiny-overcoming-fear-resources/>

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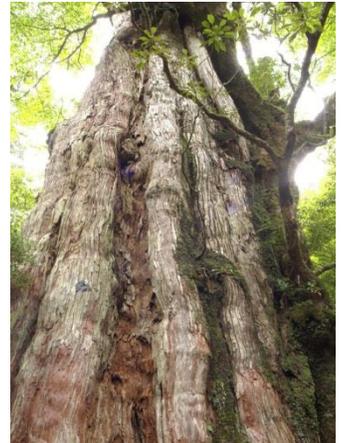
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KNOWLEDGE

Dear (insert your name) _____;

Today I engaged in a conversation on how God can use me as an Ambassador of Christ and what that means as God moves me from where I am to where He wants me to be. Because of what I heard, shared, learned, witnessed, thought about, I want to remember most



Blessings Overflow,

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