

FROM DESPERATION TO TRANSFORMATION

ECHO: Hope Against Hunger



Transformation in Action

Elisha and the Widow's Oil (2 Kings 4: 1-7) - NASB

- 1 Now a certain woman of the wives of the sons of the prophets cried out to Elisha, “Your servant my husband is dead, and you know that your servant feared the Lord; and the creditor has come to take my two children to be his slaves.”
- 2 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 except a jar of oil.”
- 3 Then he said, “Go, borrow vessels at large for yourself from all your neighbors, even empty vessels; do not get a few.”
- 4 And you shall go in and shut the door behind you and your sons, and pour out into all these vessels, and you shall set aside what is full.”
- 5 So she went from him and shut the door behind her and her sons; they were bringing the vessels to her and she poured.
- 6 When the vessels were full, she said to her son, “Bring me another vessel.” And he said to her, “There is not one vessel more.” And the oil stopped.
- 7 Then she came and told the man of God. And he said, “Go, sell the oil and pay your debt, and you and your sons can live on the rest.”

From Desperation To Transformation

2 Kings 4

Verse 1:

Now a certain woman of the wives of the sons of the prophets cried out to Elisha, “*Your servant my husband is dead, and you know that your servant feared the Lord; and the creditor has come to take my two children to be his slaves.*”

Transformation Principles

- The preeminent platform for showcasing the Lord’s transformation is in the place of desperation.
- Elisha’s call led him to the person living in the place of desperation.
- The place of desperation is often a place of destroyed relationship – and inequality
- Transformation functions best within relationship.

From Desperation To Transformation

2 Kings 4

Verse 2:

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 except a jar of oil.”

Transformation Principles

- A compassionate heart is always the most fertile soil for transformative action.
- For transformation to properly occur, general compassion has to move to specific investigation and action.
- The place of desperation sometimes makes it difficult to recognize personal assets.
- Impactful transformation starts by recognizing what we have and offering it as part of the solution to your challenge. This engages the heart, stimulates personal participation, and ultimately enlists ownership.

From Desperation To Transformation

2 Kings 4

Verse 3:

Then he said, “Go, borrow vessels at large for yourself from all your neighbors, even empty vessels; do not get a few.

Transformation Principles

- Transformation works best when the community is involved in the solution, not just someone operating in isolation.
- Transformation can sometimes feel counterintuitive.
- Transformation connects people.
- Transformation can be most impactful when we are willing to take risks and when it challenges our faith.

From Desperation To Transformation

2 Kings 4

Verse 4 – 5:

And you shall go in and shut the door behind you and your sons, and pour out into all these vessels, and you shall set aside what is full.” So she went from him and shut the door behind her and her sons; they were bringing the vessels to her and she poured.

Transformation Principles

- Transformation requires the combination of a faithful human effort AND the outpouring of divine blessing
- Transformation can best be experienced through obedient implementation by adhering to the specific instructions
- It is in the ACT of pouring that transformation is experienced.
- It is the desperate one's faith-filled pouring that unleashes and activates the transformation.
- Desperation is a great motivator in transformation.
- It is in the use of our own hands that our most impactful transformation occurs.

From Desperation To Transformation

2 Kings 4:

Verse 6:

When the vessels were full, she said to her son, “Bring me another vessel.” And he said to her, “There is not one vessel more.” And the oil stopped.

Transformation Principles

- Transformation is manifest to the extent that we have availed ourselves of empty jars
- Transformation should not be wasteful or wasted.

From Desperation To Transformation

2 Kings 4:

Verse 7:

Then she came and told the man of God. And he said, “Go, sell the oil and pay your debt, and you and your sons can live on the rest.”

Transformation Principles

- The goal of transformation should be sustainability.
- Transformation, when carried out correctly, leads to restored relationship.
- Transformation seeks to restore equilibrium in the social dynamics of the community.

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ECHO's Vision Statement

“Honoring God by empowering the undernourished with sustainable hunger solutions.”

ECHO's Mission Statement

“Following Jesus by reducing hunger and improving lives worldwide through partnerships that equip people with agricultural resources and skills.”

ECHO'S BIBLICAL MANDATE

- Called by God
- Reach the people living in the places of desperation
- Engagement is shaped by compassion, dignity, and justice.
- We are called to promote sustainable empowerment
- ECHO ultimately seeks the restoration of all relationships – with selves, neighbors, livelihoods, Creator.