

THE MIRACULOUS OIL AND THE FLOATING AXE HEAD

2 Kings 4:1-7; 6:1-7

I. THE REDEMPTION OF THE WIDOW'S SONS (4:1-7)

A. The Problem: Family Debt

1. The Debt of my Father—*a picture of the human condition*

a. Imperfect Parents—nobody, since Adam and Eve, had perfect parents.

- **Poor**—*unable to provide everything the family needed*
- **Mortal**—*prone to physical or mental disability, won't live forever*

b. Indebted Children—each generation inherits the debt of its parents

2. The Hope of My Mother (Gen 3:15)—a son to care for her

- a. **Provide**—home, food, clothing, etc...
- b. **Protect**—physically, legally, socially...

3. The Reality of God—*His presence, power, love, mercy and grace*

B. The Miracle: Multiplication of the Oil—God took *something ordinary* that this woman *already had* and *multiplied* it.

C. The Significance:

1. God cares for widows and orphans.
2. God cares for the family of a prophet (minister).

II. THE RETURN OF THE BORROWED AXE HEAD (6:1-7)

A. Problem: Loss of a Borrowed Item—Iron tools very expensive and valuable

1. **Physical**—iron sinks
2. **Legal**—if you lose or somehow destroy what you borrowed, you must pay
3. **Financial**—unable to afford a replacement,
4. **Social**—don't want to be *that guy* that breaks or loses other peoples' tools!

B. The Miracle: Iron Floats

C. Significance

1. God is sovereign over the Created Order. (Mat 14:33; Rom 8:38-39)
2. God cares about our social and financial problems.
3. God is willing to help us. (Jas 1:5) Even when the problem is our own fault.

III. **IMPLICATIONS**

A. Poverty

1. It is not a sin or a shame to be poor.
2. Being poor does not disqualify a person from spiritual gifting and ministry.

B. Debt (Rom 13:8; 1 Tim 6:6)

1. It is dangerous. (Pr 22:7)—*Avoid it if possible*
2. It is binding. (Ps 37:21)—*It must be paid*

C. Jesus (Lk 24:27)

1. The Lord of Creation (Mat 14:33; Col 1:15-17)—The divine Son of God
2. The 2nd Adam (1 Cor 15:22)—the One Man (Husband, Father) who *gets it right!*
3. The Son of Eve (Gen 3:15; Isa 9:6)—the Messiah we have all been waiting for