

Not Enough

On Sunday we continued our sermon series called, “If We Knew Now What They Knew Then – 7 Steps To Spiritual Power.” Our key lesson was drawn from the life of the prophet Elisha.

1. Warm up question: What are your plans for the Thanksgiving holiday?
2. Our Bible story this week begins with these ominous words: “When Elisha returned to Gilgal, there was a famine in the land.” II Kings 4:38. Thankfully, most of us will never experience a famine of food. But we do each face our own kinds of dire shortages. Examples include: not enough time, not enough energy, not enough sleep, not enough money, not enough serenity, not enough love, not enough health, not enough progress, not enough resolve, not enough patience, not enough inner strength, etc., etc. In what area of your life do you most often find yourself experiencing a dire shortage – and how does that feel?

3. Harry Chapin’s famous song “Cat’s In The Cradle” starts like this:

My child arrived just the other day	And the cat’s in the cradle and the silver moon,
He came to the world in the usual way.	Little boy blue and the man in the moon.
But there were planes to catch and bills to pay.	“When you coming’ home, Dad?”
He learned to walk while I was away.	I don’t know when, but we’ll get together then, son.
And he was talkin' before I knew it,	You know we’ll have a good time then.
and as he grew	
He'd say "I'm gonna be like you, Dad.	
You know I'm gonna be like you."	

Think about the most important relationships in your life at the moment. Do you feel your finding enough time, energy, and love for those relationships? If not, what gets in the way?

4. Read Second Kings 4:38-44.
 - a. When Elisha returns home and finds there’s a famine and as the “company of prophets sit before him” and he’s teaching, he says to his servant, “Put the large pot on, and make some stew” for everyone. What do you suppose everyone thought when they heard Elisha say this?
 - b. What do you think Elisha was trying to teach these young, aspiring prophets?
 - c. The initial batch of stew was deadly, but then Elisha threw some flour into the pot and said, “Eat up. Now its fine.” How would you have reacted?
 - d. Look again at verse 42. What do you think we’re supposed to learn from the example of the farmer from Baal-Shalishah?
5. In verse 43, Elisha’s servant points out that the amount of food the farmer gave them was woefully insufficient to feed a hundred people. Elisha disagrees and orders him

to serve what they have. Somehow it ends up being more than enough. From this, Jeff drew the following key lesson: **When we're living in tune with God, seeing life through the eyes of faith, we will discover again and again that somehow – one way or another – *There is always enough!***

- a. Do you buy that? Why or why not?
 - b. Can you think of someone you've know whose life seemed to exemplify this principle? Tell us about him or her.
 - c. In your own life, when have you faced great scarcity, but then discovered to your amazement, that there was more than enough.
6. Sure, sometimes amazing things happen and a great need is suddenly met. But we also all know of times when someone is lacking something and that something never appears. Examples include poor people who have to live in cold, dilapidated homes or people with chronic illness who struggle and may even die. In response, Jeff told the story of a doctor whose wife died after a long struggle with multiple illnesses. Every week they had church friends pray for her. She was never physically healed, but Dr. Boyd says, "Looking back, each week it was those intimate, powerful prayers that gave us enough spiritual strength to face another week." What they lacked in health, God made up for by providing an abundance of support and spiritual strength.
- a. Do you think that's a good way to look at things? Does it ring true? Your thoughts?
 - b. Think of an area in your life where you're experiencing scarcity. If God doesn't give you what you're hoping for in that area, what else might God give you to offset that scarcity and create an overall abundance in your life?
7. For some of us, it seems like there's too much to do and never enough time. Here's a quote on that subject from H.B. Meyer. What are your thoughts about what he says?
- "Do not be in too great a hurry. There is time for everything that has to be done. The One who gave you your life-work has given you just enough time to do it in. The length of life's candle is measured out according to the length of your required tasks. You must take necessary time for meditation, for sleep, for food, for enjoyment of human love and friendship; and even then there will be time enough left for your necessary duties. . . . He/she who believeth shall not make haste."
8. Jeff suggested four practical steps to overcome our sense of scarcity in life: (1) When you catch yourself saying, "There isn't enough," stop and say aloud, "There is always enough"; (2) Let that mantra calm and relax your spirit; (3) Prioritize as best you can with what little you have; and (4) Trust God to take care of the rest.

What scarcity pattern in your life do you need to start challenging with the declaration: "There is always enough!"