

The State of Glenkirk (2 Kings 4:1-7)

August 27, 2023

Pastor Tim Peck

THE BIG IDEA

Scarcity causes us to become desperate. However, abundance starts with what we have. And when we give God what we have, God ensures that it is enough to do all that God wants us to do.

OPENING

- A scarcity mindset views the world as a finite set of resources, so people must compete against each other for their share of those resources. Describe an example you've seen of a scarcity mindset.
- An abundance mindset sees limitless potential in the world. Rather than competing for a limited share of resources, an abundance mindset collaborates. Describe an example you've seen of an abundance mindset.

DIGGING DEEPER

- Read 1 Kings 17:8-16. How is this miracle performed here by Elijah similar to the one performed by Elisha in 2 Kings 4:1-7? How is it different?
- Bible scholar John Olley says, *"In this cameo of seven verses we see how the prophet 'elicits faith and action by questions, encouragement and word'. His compassion foreshadows the approach of Jesus Christ and provides a continuing model for Christian response to human need. The prophet is neither imperious nor paternalistic. He does not produce gold from somewhere else, even if he could, but respects the widow's integrity and dignity. She may start with the smallest possible contribution, but she is an active participant in the solution and is not overshadowed by Elisha."*¹ Why is it important that the widow be part of the solution to her plight?

¹John Olley, *The Message of Kings, The Bible Speaks Today* (InterVarsity Press, 2011), p. 230.

- According to Protestant Reformer Johannes Bugenhagen, *“The miracles God does through his prophets or preachers create faith in the Word that is preached or compassionately assist the poor in their need.”*² Which does this miracle do?
- Pastor Tim suggests four churchwide goals for Glenkirk this next twelve months:
 - 20% increase in worship attendance
 - 250 adults in short-term 7-week discipleship groups
 - Discerning how to be involved in ministry to those experiencing homelessness
 - Offering lay counseling training to replenish our number of lay counselors.Which of these do you think will be the most challenging to accomplish?

PUTTING IT TO WORK

- Of the five goals Pastor Tim proposed, which resonates most with your heart? What does this tell you about yourself?
- How is God leading you to participate in each of these four churchwide goals?

PRAYER REQUESTS

²Reformation Commentary on Scripture (InterVarsity, 2016), Vol. 5, p. 415.