

Rut, Rot or Revival: 2 Kings 4:1-7

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Rut-

A narrow or predictable way of life, set of attitudes, etc.; dreary or undeviating routine.

Rot-

To slowly decay or cause decay. This implies a slow change from a state of soundness or perfection.

Revival-

An improvement in the condition or strength of something. A restoration to bodily or mental vigor, to life or consciousness, or to sporting success.

Being in a rut is a terrible and frustrating place to be because many times you feel like, "what have I done to deserve this?" Being in a rut will cause you to lose sleep and cause you to be irritable and hard to get along with. But the worst thing about being in a rut is that if you don't find a way to get out of it, a rut will turn into a rot.

Now the wife of one of the sons of the prophets cried to Elisha, "Your servant my husband is dead, and you know that your servant feared the LORD, but the creditor has come to take my two children to be his slaves." 2 And Elisha said to her, "What shall I do for you? Tell me; what have you in the house?" And she said, "Your servant has nothing in the house except a jar of oil." 3 Then he said, "Go outside, borrow vessels from all your neighbors, empty vessels and not too few. 4 Then go in and shut the door behind yourself and your sons and pour into all these vessels. And when one is full, set it aside." 5 So she went from him and shut the door behind herself and her sons. And as she poured they brought the vessels to her. 6 When the vessels were full, she said to her son, "Bring me another vessel." And he said to her, "There is not another." Then the oil stopped flowing. 7 She came and told the man of God, and he said, "Go, sell the oil and pay your debts, and you and your sons can live on the rest." (2 Kings 4:1-7)

1. **The first question, "What shall I do for you?" does sound a little unusual. Sounds like Elisha is asking this woman if she is ready to get out of the RUT.**

She had "nothing in the house." Not a thing! Yet her faith did not fail. Nothing left ... except. Just this pot of oil. But that bit of oil was sufficient. God used it mightily.

2. **We need to put our faith into action. Revival of Hope.**

The verb "go" means to walk! "Get started" says Elisha. Go! The verb is framed as a command too! This is now urgent business! God wants to meet our need! It is important to Him!

Be eager and hungry and excited when it comes to the filling of the precious Holy Spirit of God.

3. **Keep expecting Hope. Keep expecting Revival.**

Just notice that the oil flowed as long as there were empty vessels. The oil was not exhausted. That supply never ended. The number of empty vessels was diminished. The insufficiency was on the vessel end, the human end, not the supply end of the miracle. If they had gathered more empty pots, they would've had more oil to fill them. See the connection?

A sermon by Kevin McLouth | Hope Church