**Rainmaker Part 2: Profile of a Rainmaker**

Welcome to week 2 of the Rainmaker Series. Last week Pastor Kevin spoke about the concept of a rainmaker. A Rainmaker is someone who produces at a level far higher than the average person. ***A rainmaker produces so much they are not just successful for themselves, they produce so much that everyone around them benefits from their life.*** There are four levels of life – Survival, Stability, Success, and Significance. Rainmakers operate at the highest levels of success and significance. Drought is lack, poverty, want, death. Rain is blessing and God is the one who gives the rain.

Here is the key to receiving that Rain…

***Leviticus 26:*** *3If ye walk in my statutes, and keep my commandments, and do them; 4Then I will give you rain in due season, and the land shall yield her increase, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit.  5And your threshing shall reach unto the vintage, and the vintage shall reach unto the sowing time: and ye shall eat your bread to the full, and dwell in your land safely.*

Today I want to give you a profile of a Rainmaker. We are going to key off the story of the Widow’s Oil in 2 Kings 4.

DROUGHT – This woman is experiencing terrible drought.

We opened with the Phil Collins song “I wish it would rain.” This is how the widow felt.

* Her husband, who was a prophet of God, has recently passed away. Imagine that pain.
* She is in so much debt; a creditor is coming to take her 2 boys as slaves. Imagine that pain.

In a short time EVERYTHING that she holds dear will have been taken from her. On the Levels of Life, she is barely surviving. She could use some rain. She cries out to the prophet Elisha about her lack, her poverty, the death of her Husband, and the soon coming loss of her 2 boys. This family needs a rainmaker.

The now deceased husband, he might have been a rainmaker. After all he was a prophet of God, but now he is gone and we see a family that needs someone to loose Blessing. There is room in our families for more than one rainmaker. Both Mom and Dad ought to be rainmakers. They should raise their children up to be rainmakers, conduits of blessing.

This widow cries out to the prophet, hopping he can fix this problem. Elisha is no slouch; maybe he could whip her up an amazing miracle.

2Kings 4:2

Elisha replied to her, “How can I help you? Tell me, what do you have in your house?”

   “Your servant has nothing there at all,” she said, “except a small jar of olive oil.”

Elisha wants to help. He asks her what she has in her house. Strange question. I imagine she was a little frustrated when she said she had Nothing…. Except a little oil. Sometimes we are so blinded by our need that we forget what we already have. … We forget about that little bit of oil.

That little measure of oil is so easy to discount and look over – But DO NOT look past it. That oil was the last thing this family had left… They were surviving on that oil.

What you are using to survive? – **God wants to use what you are surviving on as a source to bring Stability, Success, and Significance.** She could have taken that oil and used it for cooking or lamp fuel. It would have helped her survive until it ran out. When we are in survival mode that is how we use things – We use them to survive. They get used up and we search for something else to survive on. This can get ugly. Some people survive on that new relationship feeling, then it gets used up and they have to find someone else. It gets very desperate when you have to survive on the latest check from your employer. You get that check and cling to every penny that is in there, but eventually it will be gone all too soon and you are left counting the days to the next Friday. Someone with an addiction is basically trying to survive. They are trying to escape their painful reality so they cling to their addiction, but eventually it will run out.

This is surviving. This is drought. God wants more for you than that.

**What are you using to survive?**  If you use it yourself it will be used up all too soon, but if you give that little bit of oil to God it will become a source of blessing. There was a woman in the New Testament who came to a well to get water when she ran into Jesus…

John 4:13 (NIV) “Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again.

V14 but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

Listen up Rainmakers! You can cling to that next drink of water and survive a little longer… or you can receive water and never thirst again – but even more that - life giving water will start flowing from you like a spring.

There is a little boy with a little lunch and there is a huge hungry crowd of 5 thousand people. The little boy could have taken it upon himself to feed those closest to him. He could have rationed the fish and bread to help others survive a little longer. It would have helped, but it wouldn’t have gone very far. When he put that same meal in the hands of Jesus… all 5 thousand people were fed. They had more baskets of left overs than the original basket.

You can take your time, energy, and money and use it for some good. Maybe you find some sort of cause that you give to… everything from feed the children to save the whales. You can do some good but it won’t go far… If you gave that same time, energy, and money and put it in the hands of Jesus it would go much further!

If you want abundance – put what you are using to survive into the hands of Jesus.

**John 10:10**

**I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.**

I’m going to ask you the same thing the prophet asked the widow. **What do you have in your house?**

We need to take Inventory of what is within arm’s reach.

This oil that she had first looked past would be instrumental in saving her sons. We are often quick to say there is nothing in our house, nothing we can do, no way to change the situation. But it is rarely true that there is nothing…. There is always something…

When problems come we usually go into panic mode. We think we need to search out the solution, find the answer, and locate what we’ve been lacking. I need to add the answer to my problem. This is a sure fire way to live a life that merely survives. God wants to bring you into stability, success, and significance.

God does things way different from your normal Hollywood Action Adventure Fantasy film. Perhaps you will recognize this story line… There is a villain and there is only one way to kill him. Unfortunately the one thing that can kill him is on the other side of the world, hidden in the darkest cave and filled with danger. There is this ring and the only way you can destroy this ring is to travel very far until you reach this crazy mountain. You must climb the mountain which is actually a volcano and throw the ring into the fire.

God is different. He uses what is on the scene. He uses what you already have in your hand.

Moses – He simply held out the Shepherd Rod that was already in His hand.

All David needed was the slingshot that was already in His hand to kill Goliath.

All Gideon needed where a few house hold items to defeat an army.

This widow was staring her miracle in the face and never knew it. It was within arm’s reach. Could you be staring your miracle right in the face?

The prophet knew the answer was in the house. What is in your house? Take inventory. He didn’t ever ask “How much” is in your house. We usually get caught up with the amount. It’s not about the amount. A Rainmaker knows it’s not about our supply – it’s about God’s supply. A rainmaker isn’t ashamed to reach into the cabinet for the little bit of oil that is left.

What do you have lying in the cupboard right now? Maybe you have some knowledge that you aren’t using. Maybe you know about prayer or Godly principles like forgiving others. Maybe you haven’t acted on some knowledge yet… You haven’t taken that important step of being baptized or you haven’t trusted God with your giving of tithes and offering. These are things that are in the house! They are within your reach. They are key to becoming a rainmaker today.

At Connect Group…

You have to take inventory. Maybe you have a dream or a passion that you have never acted on. Maybe you’ve felt the call to serve others, to be more involved in the kingdom of God and this faith community. If you don’t act on these callings it’s like leaving the oil on the shelf.

Quit waiting for your success to come – God wants you to know it’s already in the house. A rainmaker will step out on the little they do have and see… Ephesian 3:20 take place.

**Ephesians 3:20 (NIV)**

**Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us.**

Somebody say – It’s in the House! God is going to take the little you have and do Immeasurably more!! It’s the Power that He has placed inside of you. You don’t have to go look for it! It’s in you!

Rainmakers don’t have all the answers. They aren’t perfect or have everything figured out. They simply know where to turn. They Trust and Obey God. They know the promise of Leviticus 3:26

***Leviticus 26:*** *3If ye walk in my statutes, and keep my commandments, and do them; 4Then I will give you rain in due season*

Let’s look at the rest of the story.

2 Kings 4:3-6

Elisha said, “Go around and ask all your neighbors for empty jars. Don’t ask for just a few. **4** Then go inside and shut the door behind you and your sons. Pour oil into all the jars, and as each is filled, put it to one side.”

 **5** She left him and shut the door behind her and her sons. They brought the jars to her and she kept pouring. **6** When all the jars were full, she said to her son, “Bring me another one.”

But he replied, “There is not a jar left.” Then the oil stopped flowing.

They needed to trust and obey. They gathered as many vessels as they could. They didn’t ask for just a few. They knew they only had a little oil but they gathered as many containers as they could.

Remember!!!

* **God wants to use what you are surviving on as a source to bring Stability, Success, and Significance.**
* **We should take inventory because God is going to use something in house.**

This is the final thing I’m going to bring you today – **You need to prepare to contain the blessing and keep pouring.**

The prophet told them to pour and not stop. They would simply move the containers as they were filled and that little oil filled every last jar. The oil stopped pouring when there were no more vessels to fill.

If you really want to see abundant rainfall you need to prepare space for the blessing. God has so much abundance that he wants to pour out in your life but you must make room for it. In a short time I’m going to open up this altar and if you will come to this altar as an empty vessel the God who is more than enough will fill you to over flowing.

The trouble is, sometimes we come to God not wanting abundance. Sometimes we come to a worship service only wanting a little bit of God’s presence, just enough to feel ok about ourselves or just enough to get through the next tough days. If He completely filled our lives then we might have to make some changes, so maybe we will settle today for just a little oil…. That sounds like survival to me.

The prophet told the widow “Don’t stop pouring.” God wants to give you more than you need to survive. She could have stopped pouring when she had enough to pay off the creditors and free her sons from slavery – But she was a rainmaker – she kept pouring. They sold the oil and had more than enough to pay off all their debts and live on what was left.

That’s the promise Pastor Kevin talked about last week…

**Leviticus 26:5 *your threshing shall reach unto the vintage, and the vintage shall reach unto the sowing time: and ye shall eat your bread to the full, and dwell in your land safely***

Somebody needs to get their vessels lined up today and invite God to make it rain. The most frustrating thing I see in ministry is not having the vessels lined up. It really does rain at Redemption Church! We are so thankful to see God pour out his spirit in this place and house to house at our Connect Group meetings. What is frustrating is seeing lives in drought, barely surviving, families in turmoil and lives unfulfilled sitting idly by when God has so much more for them.

I’m about to open up this altar but I want to line up some vessels first. There are people in this church who convict me every time they come to the altar. I’m talking about people that come to the altar alone because no one else is serving God in their home. We have some young kids in this church that come and stand in this altar, not because their parents have made them come to church today but because these kids are asking God to rain in their life. Karli and Lauryn Humbert, Jon Corley, Sarah Childers and others – You are rainmakers. I love to see Jon Corley bring his brother Austin and pray side by side in this altar. It reminds me of lined up vessels inviting God to pour into them.