

1 Kings 17:1-16; cf. Luke 4:25-26; James 5:17

2 Kings 4:1-7

Luke 18:1-8

I. SIMILARITIES IN PASSAGES:

- A. Widows in need of justice – the bringing together of all things to the way they should be. This is based on the revelation of the truth of God’s Kingdom and His ways.
- B. Time when justice seems far away; things are not as they should be
- C. Appeal to the Lord through prophetic representative
- D. Provision comes for self, for neighbors

II. CONTRAST AMONG THE RELIGIOUS MAINSTREAM:

- A. We have plenty, and are doing fine – Revelation 3:14-21
- B. Leaders of Israel were not in touch with their need – John 9:41; John 15:22; Jeremiah 2:35

III. QUESTIONS FOR US:

- A. What is the level of our desperation, and how do we increase our awareness of our need?
 - 1. Asking the Holy Spirit to open our eyes to what is the norm of the Kingdom of God
 - 2. Seeing that norm in the Scriptures
 - 3. Observing others living closer to the norm than we are

4. Ask the question – how did breakthrough come for them? (follow in the footsteps of the flock; buy oil from the One who sells it)
 - a. More than copying methodology
 - b. Must emulate their journey
5. Understanding and embracing the Holy Spirit’s strategies for removing the barriers that hinder love

IV. WHAT IS THE EVIDENCE OF DESPERATION FOR JUSTICE?

- A. Unrelenting prayer – night and day corporate calling out; unwilling to take “no” for an answer
- B. Willingness to alter lifestyle – no longer satisfied with alternatives to Kingdom reality
- C. Obedience
- D. Willingness to overcome skepticism and cynicism to risk it with God again
- E. Willingness to invest what we have for the sake of supernatural effect – pour out our little container of oil, and take the risk that God is who He says He is.