

## **Elijah and the Widow**

Our Old Testament lectionary lessons through the month of June share the stories of Yahweh's great prophet, Elijah. Elijah, running first from the wrath of King Ahab and then from the ravages of drought, finds himself a stranger in a foreign land. What would he do? How would he survive?

Elijah meets a widow who is gathering sticks by the city gates of Zarephath. He asks first for a drink of water; then for a bite of bread. The widow was pleased to help with the water, but all the food she had left in her household was a handful of meal in a jar and a little oil in a jug. Her plan was to use the sticks she was gathering to bake a little bread for herself and her son as a last meal.

The prophet instructs the widow to make a cake for him and then to go ahead make something for herself and her son. His promise, God's promise, was that her meal jar and her oil jug would not run out until the drought was over and food would again be available.

The widow obeys and though her household ate for many days to come, "the jar of meal was never emptied and the jug of oil never failed."

What a wonderful compliment to the stories we've shared over the past six weeks in our "It's about Life..." series. Together we've looked at the Book of Acts and the teachings of Jesus to help us find our way to the gift of life: plain, simple and abundant.

By obeying the prophet's request, by having a heart centered in compassion and welcome, the widow

receives the gift of sustenance and life. Though the land all around her is being ravaged by drought, her daily

bread is provided. She has enough to make it through the difficulty of the day until a better tomorrow.

And so it is with God's call upon our lives. When we give ourselves, when we offer all we have back to God, our gift is life abundant and always enough.

Thank you for your "yes" to the five questions of commitment we've lifted over the past several weeks. As we continually devote ourselves to:

**Practices:** *Worship, Prayer, Scripture...*

**Spiritual Formation:** *Growing through Sunday School, Bible Study, Small Groups, Study...*

**Missions:** *Reaching beyond our walls and comfort zones to our neighbors...*

**Financial Support:** *Growing to regular giving, To tithing, to tithing and beyond...*

**Witness:** *Identifying, praying for and reaching out to someone in need of God's love, a church home...*

...may our jars and jugs be filled with the never ending life abundant that is God's love in Christ.

Grace and Peace,

**Rich**