

## Proper Environment for The Miraculous

### 2 Kings 4:1-7

1 Now there cried a certain woman of the wives of the sons of the prophets unto Elisha, saying, Thy servant my husband is dead; and thou knowest that thy servant did fear the LORD: and the creditor is come to take unto him my two sons to be bondmen. 2 And Elisha said unto her, What shall I do for thee? tell me, what hast thou in the house? And she said, Thine handmaid hath not any thing in the house, save a pot of oil. 3 Then he said, Go, borrow thee vessels abroad of all thy neighbours, *even* empty vessels; borrow not a few. 4 And when thou art come in, **thou shalt shut the door upon thee and upon thy sons,** and shalt pour out into all those vessels, and thou shalt set aside that which is full. 5 So she went from him, and **shut the door upon her and upon her sons,** who brought *the vessels* to her; and she poured out. 6 And it came to pass, when the vessels were full, that she said unto her son, Bring me yet a vessel. And he said unto her, *There is* not a vessel more. And the oil stayed. 7 Then she came and told the man of God. And he said, Go, sell the oil, and pay thy debt, and live thou and thy children of the rest.

We must create the proper environment for our miracle. First, by obeying God and His Laws and commandments, but in accordance with the Scripture passage above, there was something of importance that could not be, nor was left out.

“Shut the door upon thee and thy sons...”

The shutting of the door implied creating a peculiar and special environment in which the miracle could take place. We may explore some possible reasons why without fully knowing for certain the particulars, nonetheless, there are things that are definitely implied by a door and that door being shut.

Things out stayed out. Things in stayed in.

The important thing is that God wants us to understand many miracles happen behind ‘closed’ doors. They are revealed out-of-doors at a later time.

## Matthew 6:5-6 (KJV)

**5** And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites *are*: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. **6**

But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.

The miracle happened in secret prayer, but was revealed openly.

There is a temptation to have *both* open before all. This is grandstanding and inappropriate in many, if not most, cases. Obviously, there are circumstances that call for a miracle in the midst of a crowd or conference of people, but it is not consistent with our examples above.

It may be said that a baby is born behind closed doors and revealed in the hospital nursery nine months later. As a third party, to be a part of one is completely normal and a joyous occasion, to be a part of the other is egregious and sinful.

Revival starts behind closed doors. It starts in a closet of prayer. It doesn't start with a billboard or a radio announcement. It doesn't start with a declaration on social media. These things may be a great way of declaring a miracle that has occurred, but that isn't what brings it. It starts by shutting out some things and shutting in some things.

How much different would our prayers be if we had a studio in our prayer closet with lights and cameras pointed at us? What face would we wear? What posture would we assume? What words would we choose? Would we position ourselves so that our face caught a favorable angle and good lighting as we 'interceded' for the lost? Would we speak in a deeper, more sonorous tone while pleading with God for souls and a move of His Spirit? One thing is certain. Revival doesn't come from the neighborhood crowding in your closet to watch you pray. Nor does it come by the community gathering around and

yelling advice about which vessels needed to be filled next. The creation of the environment for the miracle in this passage *wasn't* a public event.

Shut the door - some things in, some things out.

If the miracle we need many, many times only takes place behind closed doors, how are we suffering in the long-term by opening them *and* the windows? By building grandstands outside on the lawn so the neighbors can get a better view of the 'pouring out' of the oil?

Are we saying, shut sinners out? Absolutely not! But there was something about this miracle that God didn't want just everybody, or perhaps more accurately, just anybody, seeing.

That being said, we could even argue that the neighbors had a vested or at least partially personal interest in the unfolding, mysterious events taking place three or four houses down. Imagine the narrative that took place that day.

"*Another* one, Esther?"

"That's right, Lydia, I saw those boys take at least twelve in the last hour through the front door. I can hardly stand it. What in the world are they up to over there?"

"I don't know, but they borrowed two of my vessels and I think I have a right to see." Yet, when the busybodies arrived to 'checkup' on their vessels. The door was shut. Off they went in a huff...

So, this wasn't just a naturally personal environment for the miracle. It was done *in spite* of all the people who were so sure they had a right to be the next set of prying eyes.

When the door is no longer shut, we can no longer control who enters in or who can invisibly influence the infancy or formation of our miracles. Can we fairly and truthfully say that having our activities in full view of the world doesn't somehow impact our services or how they are conducted? Perhaps, there are things we do differently as a church, because we are being watched,

than what should transpire? Can we or will we fully reprove, rebuke, and exhort as necessary? Will we follow the admonition:

### **1 Timothy 5:20 (KJV)**

Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear.

Could it be that public scrutiny may underlie a modification to accurate obedience to the Apostle's doctrine? What about the "others" in this verse found in Timothy? If no open rebuke is taking place, will they fear? If they don't learn fear, will they fall prey to temptation and lose out with God? Paul is clearly drawing a line between rebuke and the subsequent result, fear, as the *desired* outcome!

God's methods work. His ways work. No less oil flowed from the cruse because the door was shut. No less sustenance was enjoyed because the door was shut. No less monetary provision was obtained because the door was shut. Quite the opposite. The Scripture clearly implies a super-abundance; more vessels were needed.

Were the door open, this would not have been the case. Open doors affect closed-door miracles!

In this passage of Scripture, the environment for the necessary miracle was created by shutting the door.

Some things and some people in, some things and some people out.

### **Gen 19:10 (KJV)**

**10** But the men put forth their hand, and pulled Lot into the house to them, and **shut to the door**.

### **2 Kings 4:32-33 (KJV)**

**32** And when Elisha was come into the house, behold, the child was dead, *and* laid upon his bed. **33** He went in therefore, and **shut the door** upon them twain, and prayed unto the LORD.

It is not always something bad done outside or inside that is insinuated by a shut door.

A shut door creates a certain environment.

Focus inside, distractions outside.

Sincerity inside, showmanship outside.

Deep honesty inside, best-foot-forward outside.

Humility inside, pride outside.

God's searching lamp inside, public opinion outside.

Many miracles require a door that is shut, creating the environment for God's work to be done.

Noah's miracle unquestionably would have ended differently if his door would have been shut!

God surely has miracles for the church in this last hour and we can't afford to miss one as great as this one, that carries us through 'many days'. We risk missing the fullness of the miracle God intends by leaving the door open to all.

Go ahead...shut the door. God will reward you openly.

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