

Stewardship Sermons for the month of June

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Central Zambia Conference

Sermon 1: Giving in times of little

Sabbath One: 1 Kings 17:1-17

Sermon summary: With the looming economic meltdown, persons are tempted to not be faithful in their stewardship. This sermon is an encouragement to give despite the hard times now being faced.

Today is the start of our stewardship series which is normally done in July but this time around it's in the month of June. Our stewardship series is always about the use of our spiritual gifts, the use of our time and the use of our resources. This morning I want to start off the series by looking at the topic, "Stewardship: **Giving in times of little**".

In the scripture passage read earlier we see the biblical account of Elijah and the widow of Zarephath. In this biblical narrative, the context is set in a time of drought and famine in the land. There was not much to go around, especially if you were poverty stricken like this poor widow. We do not know anything about the widow in terms of her name, age, education, what type of house she was living in, or how long she has been a widow. However, the biblical text makes it abundantly clear that she had little, next to nothing as an indication of the times she was living in.

The difficulty of the times not only affected her, but it also affected the man of God, Elijah. He too was in desperate need of food and shelter; the basic amenities of life. As such, under the directives of God he was instructed where to go and find food and shelter.

The times facing the Israelites seems so similar to what many persons in our country and the world are facing. Job cuts, unemployment and the financial sector crisis. We hear the financial analyst and experts predicting crisis in the months to come with fuel expected to rise again in Zambia and beyond. We hear that things are getting very tough on households with limited

resources. We hear that the kwacha is sliding. We hear of terms like subsidies, which are funds pumped into the economy to stimulate growth and employment and cushion the underprivileged. At the end of the day, all we hear is that we are in serious financial times. Yes, we are facing some serious times ahead. However, I believe that there are some interesting, counter cultures, lessons we can learn from this biblical account of Elijah and the widow as they faced their crisis; some lessons that will certainly help us and give us the assurance that God is still in control and will **supply all our needs**, despite the analysis of the times. The Bible states that... *“my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus”* (Philippians 4; 19).

From the text we learn that in times of little...

1. We are to still give obediently.

The bible tells us that the word to Elijah from God was... "Go at once to Zarephath of Sidon and stay there. I have commanded a widow in that place to supply you with food." (1Kings 17:9 NIV).

Not only was the word for Elijah, but also the word was for the widow. She was instructed by God to GIVE, despite the little she had, unto Elijah, and we see the poor widow doing exactly what God had instructed her to do nothing more and nothing less.

In these crucial times or times of little, many persons will tell you and in some cases many of you will be tempted not to give or to refrain from giving. However, God's financial stewardship says you are to still give, and to do so obediently.

On 24th May, 2015 I had a privilege of going to Muchenje Mission District where one mother, Sr. Endaenda, of Muluse Church, in her late 60s or early 70s, decided to build a Church from the ground to finishing and furnishing the whole structure with pews and wire-fence around at an enormous cost to God's glory. She sacrificed a lot for God's Church knowing too well that the economy in the country is not friendly. In the time of little, she gave plenty to God's work.

This woman in question is a widow, has children, and they have needs as a family and yet, she sacrificed for God's work so that people may worship God in a respectable environment.

What this widow of Zarepath did was what God has been instructing us to do all along, give back to him.

And Moses spake unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying, This is the thing which the LORD commanded, saying, Take ye from among you an offering unto the LORD” (Ex. 35:4-5)

And we see the church doing just the same, obediently giving back to God.

“Now about the collection for God’s people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do. On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made” (1Cor. 16:1-2 NIV).

Despite the little the widow had she was obedient to the command to give. As such, because she did what God had asked her to do she experienced...

a) The Provision of God

The bible tells us that with respect to the little she had it never ran dry. Listen to what the bible says about the little...“For this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the LORD gives rain on the land. She went away and did as Elijah had told her. So there was food every day for Elijah and for the woman and her family” (1Kings 17:14-15 NIV)

God fed the widow and her son, as well as Elijah, every day during the drought and the famine, and the barrel never ran dry. God revealed himself to the widow as JEHOVAH JIREH – The God Who Supplies. God can and will reveal himself to you if you are obedient to His word.

b) The Power of God

The text tells us that...“there was food every day for Elijah and for the woman and her family” (1Kings 17:14-15 NIV)

Not only did she now know God as a supplier, but she was able to see at firsthand the power of God. The Power of God to take little and multiply it; the power of God to go against the experts & analysis and provide in time of drought; the power of God to prove you and I wrong that we shall not die, but live and declare the works of the Lord. The widow was able to experience all of this because she gave obediently to the Lord, despite the little she had.

From the text we learn that in times of little...

2. We Are To Still Give Faithfully.

The bible stated that...“For this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the LORD gives rain on the land. She went away and did as Elijah had told her. So there was food every day for Elijah and for the woman and her family” (1Kings 17:14-15 NIV)

The widow gave of the little she had, day after day. In other words, day in & day out she gave what God had asked her to give and day in & day out God blessed her faithfulness. She did not give one time and stopped, she gave everyday and God keeps providing every day. In times of little, we are tempted not to be faithful in our giving. We are tempted to give now and then or when we feel like, because we feel we have a good reason not to give. However, God is challenging us to be faithful in our giving, and to give regularly and consistently, and not be unfaithful in our giving.

From the widow we learn that, despite the little and the circumstance...

a) God Expects Faithfulness

When God blesses us, He expects us to be faithful, because he has been faithful to us. As such, our circumstances do not change God's command to be unfaithful. Amidst the economic cry of "unfavourableness" for this year, we may be tempted to be unfaithful to God. However, God expects faithfulness in our giving, because He wants to show us how much of a faithful and supplying God He is.

It is no wonder the word to us from **Malachi 3**, states that we are to test him by being faithful, and he will prove his faithfulness. "Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it" (**Malachi 3:10 NIV**).

Captain Levy, a believer from Philadelphia, was once asked how he could give so much to the Lord's work and still possess great wealth. The Captain replied, "Oh, as I shovel it out, He shovels it in, & the Lord has a bigger shovel." You cannot out give God.

b) God Honours Faithfulness

Because the widow was faithful to the instructions God gave her, God honoured her and provided for her. In **Malachi 3**, God instructs us to honour him with our tithes and we will see him honouring us by opening up the heavens and blessing each one of us.

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it" **Malachi 3:10 NIV**) Jesus' very own words to us is this...

"Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." (**Luke 6:38 NIV**). When you honour God, even in times of little, God honours you more than you

can imagine, and that's what he did with for this widow. However, God not only honoured her by providing for her, but God honoured her by having her actions recorded for all of history to read. From the text we learn that in times of little...

3. We are to still give willingly.

The bible stated that with regards to the widow..."She went away and did as Elijah had told her. So there was food every day for Elijah and for the woman and her family" (1Kings17:14-15 NIV).The more you think about the circumstances of this woman, and the times she was facing (drought and famine) the more you would think that this woman was not the best choice to supply Elijah's needs. However, despite the circumstances she was willing to give, because we see her doing just that; GIVING HER LAST. The widow gave willingly because...

a) God asked her to give.

We are told that God asked the woman to give of her little, in verse 9..."Go at once to Zarephath of Sidon and stay there. I have commanded a widow in that place to supply you with food." (1Kings 17:9 NIV)

Whenever God ask you to partner with Him, it is always to your benefit. You will never come out of it holding the short end of the stick. God asked her to give, and her response was to give willingly. The bible has something to say about giving cheerfully in 2Corinthians 9 "Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2Cor. 9:7 NIV). Stewards must be cheerful as they give.

God desires us to give willingly...cheerfully...happily. In so doing, there are great blessings & joy that comes with such giving. CHEERFUL AND WILLFUL GIVING, even in times of little.

b) God asking you to give.

The text tells us that every person should give, because God loves a cheerful giver. "Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2Cor. 9:7 NIV)

I believe we can't have it any plainer than that, God wants us to give, give cheerfully and give despite the times of little.

Conclusion:

The question for us to consider is, are we going to make the economists or our circumstances dictate to us on how we should give or respond to God's instruction for us to give?

I pray that we will be obedient to the command to give, because when we give it will be given back to us "[in] good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap." (Luke 6:38 NIV). My dear brothers and sisters, you are not doing me as preacher any favour when you give to the Lord. The only person you are doing a favour when you give is yourself. Not a preacher, pastor or leader.

Sermon 2: Stewardship: Doing In Times of Little

1Kings 17:1-24

Since time immemorial, we have always set aside February as stewardship month, in which we talk about the use of our spiritual gifts, the use of our time and the use of our resources. Of course in the passing of time, July has been added and I think I am happy that June is the month of stewardship, giving us the yardstick to analyze our spiritual response to God's love right halfway through the year. Last week I started the stewardship series, by looking at

Stewardship: Giving In Times Of Little. Today, I would like to share with you on

Stewardship: Doing In Times Of Little.

In the scripture passage read earlier we see the biblical account of Elijah and the widow of Zarephath. In this biblical narrative, the context is set in a time of drought and famine in the land. There was not much to go around, especially if you were poverty stricken like this poor widow. It was a time of great hardship and difficulty for the man of God and the widow. It was a time in which many persons who were generous in their time, money or good deeds would start to think twice. It was a time when the natural response to the hardship would be self-withdrawal.

This is much the same for us today, because as we are faced with the reality of an economic crisis, locally and internationally, our natural instinct is that of self-preservation by withdrawal.

We begin to refrain from giving, which we talked about last week, and also we refrain from doing anything. Whenever we refrain from doing anything we render our spiritual giftedness useless and we miss out on the opportunity to touch lives for Christ. The word of God tells us that we are created for ministry, as such there is always an opportunity to do something and anything for Christ. Listen to what the word of God says... "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." (Eph. 2:10 NIV). We are required to be doing, and not withdrawing even in times of little. As such, there are three very important lessons we can learn from Elijah and the widow of Zarephath about doing in times of little. From the text we learn that in times of little...

1. God Still Wants Us To Go.

The bible tells us that the word to Elijah from God was...

"Go at once to Zarephath of Sidon and stay there. I have commanded a widow in that place to supply you with food." (1Kings 17:9 NIV)

In these crucial times or times of little, many persons will tell you and in some cases many of you will be tempted not to do anything or to refrain from doing anything. As I have said before, it would seem that this is the natural recourse to take; TO WITHDRAW FOR PRESERVATION PURPOSES. However, God's stewardship teachings indicate that in times of little that's when we are required to GO. More than ever, you are to GO, because some people may believe that all that is left is to die. The first step in our doing anything in times of little is that we must get up and GO, and Elijah did just that. The reasons why we are to go is so that...

a) You Can Be Used By God.

The Lord told Elijah to go because a woman was instructed to provide food for him. However, what Elijah did not know was how God would be using him to transform the woman's life.

When Elijah met the woman, she was not only a widow, but a poor widow and a widow that is about to eat her last and die, along with her son. Immediately, upon seeing the woman, the bible tells us that God gave him word for her; a word that declares... "For this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the LORD gives rain on the land'" (1Kings 17:14-15 NIV)

We can never know how God will use us in whatever circumstances he bids us to go. We will never know what people are going through and how God can use us to help them if we are not willing to go. As such, in times of little we must always be willing to do and not withdraw.

b) You Can Be A Blessing By God

I am sure that probably all Elijah thought about was his belly, as it was evidenced that when he came upon the woman his conversation surrounds satisfying his hunger. The text states that...

“So he went to Zarephath. When he came to the town gate, a widow was there gathering sticks.

He called to her and asked, "Would you bring me a little water in a jar so I may have a drink?"

As she was going to get it, he called, "And bring me, please, a piece of bread." (1Kings 17:10-11 NIV)

Elijah thought about his belly; the hardship; the little, but God showed him how much more a blessing he could be to the woman. At the same time, God showed the woman as well that even when you have little and are willing to do for others you can expect a blessing. In times of little, it is not a time to withdraw and die (spiritually & physically), it a time filled with opportunities to do more. As you do more, you will realize how God blesses you. Both Elijah and the widow experienced that first hand blessing. From the text we learn that in times of little...

2. God Still Wants Us To Share

The bible stated that with regards to the widow...“ She went away and did as Elijah had told her. So there was food every day for Elijah and for the woman and her family” (1Kings 17:14-15 NIV)

I want to realize something about the text, that though the woman went and did what Elijah had asked it was not easy; as she gave an analysis of her circumstances to Elijah. She wanted Elijah to know that she did not have plenty, but she was willing to share. Also, she wanted Elijah to know that in case he was looking for seconds, he should think twice. NOWHERE IN THE TEXT DOES IT IMPLY THAT SHE WAS UNWILLING TO SHARE. Scriptures encourages us to always share and look out for others.... “Share with God’s people who are in need. “Practice hospitality” (Rom 12:13 NIV). God wants us to share in times of little so that...

a) We Do Not Become Selfish.

In times of little it is very easy to become selfish and think about ourselves, more than others. In times of little it would seem only natural for you think about yourself first. However, the story of the widow reminds us that even in times of little we can think about others, even above ourselves.

“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves” (Phil 2:3). When you are selfish, you will certainly miss out on the opportunity to

touch others life. When you are selfish you will miss seeing God using what you have to accomplish the impossible. When you are selfish what you have will eventually die, finish, but when you lend what you have to God it gets life and give sustaining life to people.

It is no wonder that scripture states that God is pleased when we share and not become selfish. Listen to the writer of Hebrew... “And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased” (Heb 13:16).

b) We Become Selfless as we participate in doing.

When we are selfless, we learn to consider others, and others will consider us. Many persons though they are Christians, are really mean, misers and thoughtless individuals who could do well with a little dose of thinking about others. The widow could easily have told Elijah that she cannot share with him her last supper. However, if she had done just that then she would have missed out on her blessings as well having the man of God in her home and seeing God doing the miracles she experienced.

When we share with others we are fulfilling the commandment that instructs us to do so...

“Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share” (1Timothy 6:18 NIV). In spite of the little in which we all obviously have God’s desire for us is that WE STILL GO AND THAT WE STILL SHARE, do not withdraw or refrain from doing good for others. From the text we learn that in times of little...

3. God still wants us to care.

The text tells us that later on the widow’s son died and that Elijah began crying unto the Lord on behalf of the household, as a result we are told that... “The LORD heard Elijah’s cry, and the boy’s life returned to him, and he lived” (1Kings 17:22 NIV)

In times of little we do the next best thing of showing that we care about what is happening with others, and when we care about others...

a) It will cause us to call on God

We are told that when the widow’s son died Elijah called on God for help and God answered his call. In times of little we must remember that our insufficiency is nothing in comparison to God. As such, as long as we care for others we will need the help of God and the strength of God to see us through.

We can be confident that when we call on God that he will hear and he will respond, because scripture teaches us that... “He will call upon me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in

trouble, I will deliver him and honor him” (Psalm 91:15 NIV).

In our times of little or insufficiency we have no alternative but to call on God, because he is our all sufficient God.

b) It will cause others to trust in God.

After the widow saw her son being brought back from the dead, the text tells us that she declared... *“Then the woman said to Elijah, "Now I know that you are a man of God and that the word of the LORD from your mouth is the truth." (1Kings 17:24 NIV)*

For many persons they are yet to believe that God can help. However, in times of little, and especially these times, it is a golden opportunity for people to see that our God is able. People need to see that our God is able to supply; our God is able to do the miraculous; our God is able to save. OUR GOD IS MIGHTY TO SAVE.

Conclusion:

Sometimes in our times of little, we may be all caught up with the reality of the little we have. However, in God eyes there is a much bigger concern, and that is our need for him in our lives.

Sermon 3; Stewardship: Available in times of little

1Kings 17:1-24

Today is the final in our stewardship series for the month of June. Next Sabbath we are going to have a summative discourse which shall appeal to faithfulness in everyday living. Over the last two weeks we looked at Stewardship: Giving In Times Of Little and Stewardship: Doing In Times Of Little. Today, I would like to share with you on **Stewardship: Available In Times Of Little.**

As we have been saying over the last few weeks the biblical account of Elijah and the widow of Zarephath is set in a time of drought and famine in the land of Israel. As such, it was a time of very little or as we say today a time of economic catastrophic crisis: a crisis of finding the basic necessities of life.

It was a time in which many persons who were generous with their money or good deeds would start to think twice. It was a time when the natural response to the hardship would be to give and to withdraw from doing good. Also, it was a time in which no one would seem to have the time for anyone but themselves; a time in which no one would be available to do anything for anyone,

because everyone was concerned about their physical well-being or their survival in times of little. Sometimes in life, we are bogged with other people's problems while we still have our own. That makes us to be doubly troubled.

This is much the same for us today, because as we are faced with the reality of an economic crisis, locally and internationally, our natural instinct is that we do not have time for anyone. Further, with the false view that time is money no one wants to consider that they are throwing away money by wasting their time on someone else. As such, the likely outcome of these circumstances we are facing is that people become unavailable and scarce. As we face these times of little we must be careful that we do not become self-absorb, to the exclusion of everyone and everything around us. Consequently, rather than becoming unavailable in times of little, the *word of the Lord to us is this...*

“Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another-- and all the more as you see the Day approaching” (Hebrews 10:25 NIV)

In times of little, we are required to be available, and not unavailable. As such, there are three very important lessons we can learn from Elijah and the widow of Zarephath about being available in times of little. In times of little God wants us...

1. To Still Be Available For Him.

As we watch the biblical account of Elijah from the start of the scripture passage you will immediately realize that Elijah was not disconnected from God. The passage shows the connection between and God by declaring... “Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah: “Leave here, turn eastward and hide in the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan” (1Kings 17:2-3 NIV).

Not only on this occasion do we see Elijah being available to be used by God, but later on when God wanted to do something in the life of the widow, God called on Elijah to go to Zarephath. Listen to what the scriptures states... ***“Then the word of the LORD came to him: “Go at once to Zarephath of Sidon and stay there. I have commanded a widow in that place to supply you with food.” (1Kings 17:8-9 NIV)***

Whether in times of little or in times of plenty God is always looking for someone who will make time for him, so that they can be used by Him. This is very important for us to understand, because when you make time for God...

a) God Refreshes You

The text tells us that while Elijah was in the Kerith under God's direction, God fed and replenished his energy every day. Listen to the text...

"So he did what the LORD had told him. He went to the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan, and stayed there. The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning and bread and meat in the evening, and he drank from the brook" (1Kings 17:5-6 NIV)

The Lord did not only refresh Elijah at Kerith, He did it also at Zarephath when he sent him there and prepared the widow there to provide food. Whenever we make time for God He refreshes our soul.

When the Israelites were being encouraged by God about being brought back from captivity, God's word to them was that he would refresh them.

"I will refresh the weary and satisfy the faint." (Jeremiah 31:25 NIV)

Truth being told is that we all need the refreshing of God during times of little, because when God refreshes us we are able to recover and collect our strength. Not only that, we will not die, even if it is time of little. It is no wonder the bible tells us that... "they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint" (Isaiah 40:31), and this is true, even in times of little.

b) God Reassures You

As Elijah makes time for God, he gets word from the Lord as to where he must go and what he must do. These words serve as a reassurance to Elijah so that he knows that God is with him, just the same way as he makes time for God. Three times the text tells us that... "Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah..." (vs. 17:2, 8 & 14)

When we have the assurance that God is with us, because of our faithfulness to him, when we face times of little we will not be afraid. We will take confidence in the fact that God will provide a way for us as well as provide a word for us. As such, in times of little, I would rather love to hear the reassuring words of God, rather than the wisdom of men. It is no wonder the scriptures encourages us to draw *near to God with full assurance* (Heb. 10:22), because God is able to do what he says he will do. ***"let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith"* (Hebrews 10:22 NIV)**

In times of little God wants us...

2. To Still Be Available For Others

As we make ourselves still available for God and not withdraw ourselves, we will soon realize how importantly we are needed by others. The text tells us that God sent Elijah to a widow in Zarephath who was truly in need of someone to come into her life and bring hope.

“So he went to Zarephath. When he came to the town gate, a widow was there gathering sticks”
(1Kings 17:10 NIV)

We all know the rest of the story, she was on her last. But God sends Elijah to let her know that her last was just the beginning of God’s grace and mercy. However, she would have never known this if Elijah had not made himself available.

As such, in these times of little we must never fall prey to the philosophy of ME, MYSELF & I; withdrawing ourselves and becoming unavailable. We cannot retreat into the mountains and isolate ourselves from people. We must become available for others, because someone, a long time ago, made Himself available for you.

When we make time for others...

a) God Will Use Us To Refresh Others.

As I said last week, though Elijah was thinking about his belly; however when he came into contact with the widow he realized that God had a bigger plan. God’s plan was for Elijah to bring a word of encouragement; a word declaring that... *“For this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the LORD gives rain on the land.’”* (1Kings 17:14 NIV)

When God refreshes us, he does it so that we in turn can refresh others and turn their life around. The bible reminds us that... “he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed” (Proverbs 11:25 NIV)

The problem we face in the church and our society is that many persons are always looking for others to do for them and they are unwilling to do for others. The first part of the scripture quoted actually reads... A generous man will prosper. As such, if we are going to be refreshed by others we must be generous in looking out for others.

b) God Will Use Us To Reassure Others.

Upon meeting the widow Elijah declared to her... “For this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says... (v. 14). The word to the widow was a word of assurance and comfort in her times of little.

It was a word badly needed. In times of little, a lot is being broadcasted to push people further into pessimism and despair. However, God has a word for someone, and may I say that you are the one to deliver it. As such, if you should withdraw or retreat into isolation someone will miss out on the assuring word they need to go one step further. Therefore, we must make time for others by being available, because in so doing we are obeying the command to...

“Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing”
(1Thessalonians 5:11 NIV)

In times of little God wants us...

3. To Still Be Available For Service

As we make ourselves available for God and others, God will provide the opportunities for us to be of service. This is exactly what happened with Elijah, as he moves from declaring the word of God (talking), to doing ministry or service for the widow. "Give me your son," Elijah replied. He took him from her arms, carried him to the upper room where he was staying, and laid him on his bed” (1Kings 17:19 NIV).

In times of little or crisis there is always opportunity for service or ministry, as long as we make ourselves available and not withdraw. Far too many Christians are quick to withdraw and refrain from doing, not realizing that God is always looking for someone to do something or to touch a life.

Scriptures remind us that we are all created for service *"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."* (Eph. 2:10 NIV)

When we are available for service, we will conduct...

a) Service To Build Our Faith

As Elijah made himself available, his faith is put to the test at the death of the widow's son. The text tells us that...“Then he stretched himself out on the boy three times and cried to the LORD, "O LORD my God, let this boy's life return to him!" (1Kings 17:21 NIV)

Every time we make ourselves available for service it is an opportunity to build our faith. Our faith is never built by being idle or observing. Our faith is always built through service. As such, the more we are involved the more our faith is likely to growth.

b) Service To Bridge Others Faith

As Elijah conducted ministry to the widow she was able to cross the bridge from unbelief to faith in God. The bible tells us that the woman declared to Elijah...

"Now I know that you are a man of God and that the word of the LORD from your mouth is the truth." (1Kings 17:24 NIV). Through Elijah's willingness to be of service God used this experience to convince this widow that His words are completely reliable. And, by doing so the widow was able to cross the bridge of faith.

Conclusion:

When we are available for service to God we will always be fascinated in how God uses us to touch lives, transform lives and to bring faith into people's lives. All this will only happen when we make ourselves available for God, for others and for service. Is it your desire to be available to God in times of little?

NB. The last sermon is an appeal to the church to return to God and we do well to seriously challenge church members to faithfully participate in stewardship life.