

**Women of Excellence**  
**Wednesday Night Bible Study**  
**January 30, 2019**  
**Makeovers with Leftovers by Sheila Bailey**  
**Chapter 3 Figuring Out What to Do Now**

**Introduction**

After a tragedy occurs, **what** are some of the actions we can take?

**What** did Elisha tell the widow to do when she came to him (2 Kings 4) with her problems?

**What** are the possibilities for movement when you face life after a tragedy?

**you**  
backward <-----no movement-----> forward

**How Do We Move Forward after a Tragedy?**

1. **How** did the widow move forward?
2. **What** was her first step?
3. **What** direction did Elisha give to the widow concerning the vessels?

**How Can We Relate the Empty Vessels to Us as Believers after a Tragedy?**

1. **Read** 2 Corinthians 4:7. **Who** are the earthen vessels in this verse? **With whom** are the earthen vessels filled? **How** does this help us move on after our tragedies?
2. Sheila Bailey equates the empty vessels filled with oil in the widow's story with the believer who is obedient to God, being emptied and being filled with the Holy Spirit. **How** can we do this? Bailey tells us to pray Psalm 139:23-24 as a start.
3. **Are** you a vessel for Jesus Christ? **Do** you feel like a broken vessel the psalmist described when he said, "I am forgotten like a dead man, out of mind; I am like a broken vessel. For I hear the slander of many; fear is on every side." **Or are** you a vessel filled with treasure as Paul describes in 2 Corinthians 4:7 so that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us? **What** is this treasure?

Paul goes on in verses 8-10: "We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed—always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body."

4. 2 Timothy 1:7 says, "God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."

**Obedience to God and letting His Holy Spirit fill us is the key to moving through our tragedy or problem and to being made over from our leftovers – and receiving His blessings.**

## QUESTIONS, QUESTIONS, QUESTIONS!

### Have you ever questioned or blamed God when a negative or tragedy occurred in your life?

1. **What** conclusion did Job come to after much suffering in his life? Job 42:1-6
2. Sheila Bailey uses the book of Habakkuk to examine the question of why God doesn't act when bad things are happening to good people. Habakkuk was a prophet in Judah (c. 610-605 B.C.E.) who was questioning God. Habakkuk 1:2-3a says, "*How long, O Lord, must I call for help? But you do not listen! Violence is everywhere! I cry but you do not come to save. Must I forever see these evil deeds? Why must I watch all this misery?*"

After God answered him and told him that things were going to get worse before they got better and that they would be defeated by the Babylonians, Habakkuk, in 2:1 said, "*I will climb up to my watchtower and stand at my guardpost. There I will wait to see what the Lord says and how he answer my complaint.*"

- a. **What** does scripture suggest that we should be doing after we bring God our questions?
- b. In the NT, Paul tells us what we should be doing. In 1 Corinthians 16:13, he says "*Watch, stand fast in the faith.*" In Ephesians 6:11-13, he says in part, "*Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the Devil.... and having done all, to stand.*"
- c. When a guard is at his post on the watchtower, **what** makes it ideal for listening for God's voice? **Where** is your watchtower? **How** often do you go to your watchtower?
- d. While we are waiting to hear from God, **what** should be our state of mind. Fill in the word that is correct for each verse. (Hint: it's the same word for each verse.)  
*The just shall live by his \_\_\_\_\_.* Habakkuk 3:4  
*Without \_\_\_\_\_, it is impossible to please God. He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.* Hebrews 11:6  
*By grace you have been saved through \_\_\_\_\_.* Ephesians 2:8  
*By \_\_\_\_\_, Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised...By \_\_\_\_\_, the harlot Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe.* Hebrews 11:11, 31
- e. In the final verses of Habakkuk (vv. 17-19), there is a resounding crescendo of having a "though-yet theology" doxology of praise.

<i>Though the fig tree may not blossom</i>	<i>Yet I will rejoice in the Lord</i>
<i>Though the fields yield no food</i>	<i>Yet I will rejoice in the Lord</i>
<i>Though the flock may be cut off</i>	<i>Yet I will rejoice in the Lord</i>
- f. One of my favorite scriptures that relates to Habakkuk's conclusion above is Daniel 3:16-18, with the emphasis on verse 18. **Do** we have the kind of faith that Habakkuk and the three Hebrews had? **What** is our advantage over them?

