Friday January 15, Day 12 Prayer Intention:

That we as a community of believers would be empty vessels for Your glory. That we would be full of new oil to be poured back out into our communities.

Scripture:

Now the wife of the son of one of the men who tell what will happen in the future cried out to Elisha, “Your servant, my husband, is dead. You know that your servant honored the Lord with fear. But the man to whom he owed money has come to take my two children to make them serve him.”

2 Elisha said to her, “What can I do for you? Tell me, what do you have in the house?” And she said, “Your woman servant has nothing in the house except a jar of oil.”

3 Then he said, “Go around and get jars from all your neighbors. Get empty vessels, many of them.”

4 Then go in and shut the door behind you and your sons. Pour the oil into all these vessels, and set aside each one that is full.”

5 So she went from him and shut the door behind her and her sons. They took the vessels to her, and she poured.

6 When the vessels were full, she said to her son, “Bring me another vessel.” And he said to her, “There is not one vessel left.” Then the oil stopped flowing.

2 Kings 4:1-7

Things we are praying for together:

(you can pray for all of these or choose a few to pray for)

- That we would be invisible to the enemy’s tactics
- That we as a church body will be willing vessels to be poured out into the community
- Protection over marriages and families in Crosswalk and SCS
- Health and wholeness over Crosswalk and SCS
For the Holy Spirit to establish strategic connections and open new doors to share the gospel in our community

Open the doors of finance and favor over Crosswalk and SCS

Wisdom and grace for Pastor Gilbert and the Church Council in the Pastoral search

Reflection
In the story of the widow we just read, God miraculously filled vessels with oil so they could be sold to pay off a debt that she herself was not able to pay. The oil she had was all that she had left. It was an oil that kept her and her sons alive.

We as Christians come to a place of deep desperate faith, where we only have a little oil, and that oil is only for our preservation. But God sees that oil as a deep unending well that never runs dry. The more we pour out into others, the more oil is given - all we need are empty vessels to hold this oil. This widow did not run out of oil, she ran out of vessels.

It took a community of people to surround the widow in accomplishing this miracle. The moment they gave their empty vessels, they became part of the widow’s miracle. The moment we give of ourselves to those in need, we become part of their miracle in choosing to give of ourselves. Paul says:

But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you.

Philippians 2:17

Are we willing to be an empty vessel for those in need? When was the last time we asked God, “how can I be a blessing to my neighbors?” Even in this season of isolation, what are ways that we can make an impact in our area? Even if it is prayer, prayer can contribute to someone’s miracle.
There is an unending supply of oil and God is looking for empty vessels to accomplish His purposes on this earth. God is not looking for gifted and charismatic people. He is looking for those who are available to be used. An open and willing vessel.

**Prayer**

Father let Crosswalk and SCS be a community of empty vessels for Your purposes in advancing Your Kingdom. Let us be like Paul where we are being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service of people’s faith. We will not be poured out and emptied as in “burned out,” but emptied to make space for new oil as a sign of us trusting in You, Your faithfulness and Your provision. Help us remember that it is not by our strength that we can do anything, but by Your strength alone. You provide the oil, we just need to make space for it. Help us remember that You sustain us even when we begin to grow weary, and You restore us to the joy of our salvation. Amen