

A BLESSED LIFE

Part 2: An Environment for Blessings

ENVIRONMENT MATTERS

A. Shaping a better environment (conditions in which we live)

1. To lose weight - remove snacks and sweets
2. To focus better - step away from your smart phone
3. To have a better home - take away the strife (*Proverbs 17:1 NIV*)

B. Shaping your environment for God's blessings

1. Blessings - God's favor, protection, action and intervention in our lives
2. We can create an open door environment for His blessings (*Deuteronomy 28:1-2 NIV*)

AN ENVIRONMENT FOR BLESSINGS (1 Kings 17:8-16 NKJV)

A. An unusual place to be blessed

1. Sidon was a foreign city not in Israel
2. A widow was not the typical choice to provide help

B. A heart to help

1. The widow was willing to go and get Elijah some water
2. She may have had a heart that leaned towards the Jewish God

C. An overriding faith

1. Elijah told her not to fear - indicating fear would be a real challenge
2. Making him the first biscuit was a risk
3. The reason for her overriding faith - not sheer willpower

D. And everyone was blessed

1. Elijah obeyed the Lord and went to the right place
2. The widow honored God and experienced His miraculous blessing of provision

CREATING AN ENVIRONMENT FOR BLESSINGS

A. Practice the principle of following the Lord

1. Instead of bless my plans - what is Your plan Lord?
2. The more we acknowledge Him the more He directs (*Proverbs 3:5-6 NKJV*)

B. Resist the fear of putting God first

1. Moving past the risk that if we put Him first there will not be enough for us
2. God's promises give us a fear resisting weapon (*Proverbs 3:9-10 NKJV*)

C. Develop the heart to be a blessing

1. A key component to a blessed life - and counter-intuitive to the world we live in
2. Like the widow you don't have to have great resources