

- I. ONE THING—The One Thing that I'd like to take away from today's class and believe God to accomplish in my life is:

II. MEDITATION

- A. Review your class notes from Tuesday.

- Take some time to think about the main ideas of the lesson. Find the audio message on our website under the Resources tab. (www.DivineDesignDiscipleship.com).
- Which of the scriptures referenced were particularly meaningful to you? Write out those verses below and spend some time studying them this week.

- B. Rewrite your One Thing into a prayer, expressing your heart's desire for God to make this truth become your experience.

III. SING

Singing is helpful in connecting emotionally to the truth.

Listen to the songs from this week's playlist to aid you in taking today's principles from your head to your heart.

This playlist and our master playlist for the Expectations series can be found on our Divine Design Discipleship YouTube channel. (Be sure to subscribe to our channel!) Our 2020 playlist is also available on Spotify. See the handout provided with your notebook for instructions on how to access these resources.

IV. PRINCIPLES

These principles will help you recognize and develop biblical expectations:

A. POVERTY

- We all have deficits. God's Word says we can expect that God will provide for us in our places of need: Phil 4:19 AMP-- My God will liberally supply (fill until full) your every need according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.
- We may not realize it but our expectations and hopes can end up centered on the thing we lack instead of on God.
- Poverty = scantiness or insufficiency; condition of having little or no money, goods, or means of support; deficiency of necessary or desirable ingredients or qualities (Dictionary.com)
- Poverty takes many forms. It can include financial, emotional, or relational deficits.
- When a season of lack persists or intensifies, it can lead to a poverty mindset that impacts us spiritually and emotionally.
- When a spirit of poverty is present, we become susceptible to all kinds of negative expectations. It can become our default to expect nothing or even the worst case.
- Prolonged poverty can leach into other areas of our lives. Knowing our worth is diminished in some way allows thoughts of worthlessness to permeate our minds.
- Continued need in an area can undermine our faith. This widow exercises the faith she has remaining: 2 Kings 4:1-7 NLT-- One day the widow of a member of the group of prophets came to Elisha and cried out, "My husband who served you is dead, and you know how he feared the Lord. But now a creditor has come, threatening to take my two sons as slaves."² "What can I do to help you?" Elisha asked. "Tell me, what do you have in the house?" "Nothing at all, except a flask of olive oil," she replied.³ And Elisha said, "Borrow as many empty jars as you can from your friends and neighbors."⁴ Then go into your house with your sons and shut the door behind you. Pour olive oil from your flask into the jars, setting each one aside when it is filled."⁵ So she did as she was told. Her sons kept bringing jars to her, and she filled one after another.⁶ Soon every container was full to the brim! "Bring me another jar," she said to one of her sons. "There aren't any more!" he told her. And then the olive oil stopped flowing.⁷ When she told the man of God what had happened, he said to her, "Now sell the olive oil and pay your debts, and you and your sons can live on what is left over."
- This woman is believed by scholars to be the widow of Obadiah. He was a godly leader who rescued and fed 100 prophets of God during the reign of Ahab. (1 Kg 18)
- Her fortunes took a turn for the worse during the evil king's reign when her husband shared their assets with others. Now her husband is dead and she is left destitute.
- Her lack of financial means was real. But it seems that she held onto some level of expectation toward God and His people. She viewed her community as an asset.
- "A person's perceptions of their levels of stress, trust and social support mediate the impact of poverty." (*Research Digest*, 12/03/19)
- Insights:

B. PETITION

- Lack or poverty makes it more difficult to reach out and ask for help for fear of more delay or disappointment: Pr 13:12 NIV-- Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life.
- Satan uses our needy situation to introduce doubt about God's goodness and faithfulness. His discouragement is meant to keep us from making a petition.
- LISTENING EXERCISE: *Is there any place of need in your life where you've come to the point of no longer asking or praying?*

- Despite the risk, the widow "cried out" for help. The Hebrew phrase means "to shriek, to proclaim: summon, call together due to stress or need." (Strong's H6817)
- For the person seeking to align their expectations with biblical truth, deficit and disappointment can become a divine appointment with God!
- The Bible shows us that the Lord expects us to come to Him with *all* our needs: Eph 6:18 AMP-- With all prayer and petition pray [with specific requests] at all times [on every occasion and in every season] in the Spirit, and with this in view, stay alert with all perseverance
- It pleases God to see our faith expressed through prayers and petitions to Him. To Him, our every need is an opportunity for us to grow in faith and to know Him more.
- [NOTE: INTERNAL and RELATIONAL MINDSETS]
- Not only will He provide for us, but also He will do so in a way we could never predict or expect. The poor widow's story is a great example of this principle!
- Insights:

C. POUR OUT

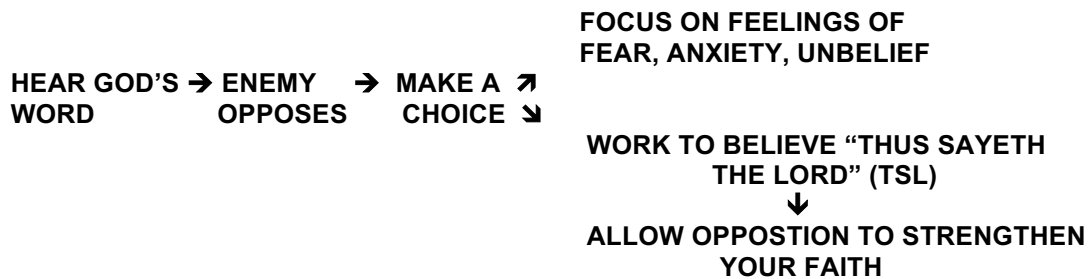
- Elisha asked the woman to pour out what she had into her situation. Sometimes it is hard for us to see what we have left when we have lost a lot.
- The enemy's tactic is to minimize or blind us to the assets we do possess.
- It's hard to imagine that she literally had *nothing* except the oil she brought. However it is the only thing she offers. (v.2)
- This oil she speaks of is expressed using a unique term in Hebrew. It refers to a small flask of oil used for the purpose of anointing (setting apart for God's use).
- Oil is often used to symbolize the Holy Spirit in the Scriptures. As children of God, we possess the gift of the Holy Spirit living within us despite any earthly need.
- Elisha instructed the widow to gather up empty vessels from her neighbors and "not a few!" (v. 3 KJV) Those jars represented her faith.
- We must remember to take account of our intangible possessions – faith, gifts, skills, experience, and testimonies – so that we can put them to use when we're lacking.
- LISTENING EXERCISE: *How would it affect your expectations in your place of need if you were to allow streams to pour out of your hollow places?*
 - *You may have reserves of love, encouragement, availability, prayer, music, organization, service, or some other intangible gift to pour out.*
 - *What offering would the Father have you to pour out by the power of His Spirit?*

- Authentic obedience, perseverance, love, service, and forgiveness are always the byproduct of faith. They spring from our deep inner convictions and expectations.
- God's miraculous provision came when she took a simple step of obedience by faith.
- The Lord often invites us to actively participate in what He is doing in and around us.
- How wonderful that this woman included her sons in this faith-building exercise. When the boys brought in the jars, the widow began to pour out her tiny supply of oil.
- The more she poured, the more vessels God filled: Luke 16:10 ESV--One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much.
- The widow was faithful with her flask of oil, her willingness to ask, her community connections, her expectations about the provision of God, and her obedience.
- We can extend faith in the expectation that God will provide. Remember that His methods are not predictable (e.g. staff, plagues, manna).
- His timetable is often different than what we have in mind:
 - Little by little: Zech 4:10 NLT-- Do not despise these small beginnings, for the Lord rejoices to see the work begin
 - Suddenly: Is 48:3 NLT-- Long ago I told you what was going to happen. Then suddenly I took action
- The widow had a "suddenly moment" of provision when she stepped out in faith. The Lord generously paid her debts, spared her sons and, made her future secure.

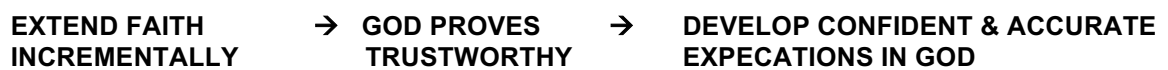
- This week, get in touch with the places where you may have let a Poverty Mindset slip in unawares due to a place of long-term lack.
- Revisit the story of the widow and then petition the Lord, asking Him to show you what He wants you to pour out as you wait on Him to provide: 2 Cor 9:8-11 MSG-- God can pour on the blessings in astonishing ways so that you're ready for anything and everything, more than just ready to do what needs to be done. As one psalmist puts it, 'He throws caution to the winds, giving to the needy in reckless abandon. His right-living, right-giving ways never run out, never wear out.' This most generous God who gives seed to the farmer that becomes bread for your meals is more than extravagant with you. He gives you something you can then give away, which grows into full-formed lives, robust in God, wealthy in every way, so that you can be generous in every way, producing with us great praise to God.
- Insights:

II. CONTINUE TO PRACTICE

- Pay attention to what God *is doing* while you are waiting on Him to do the thing you want most. Praise Him for the promises He has given and don't forget to ask for patience!
- Refer to "Tools & Techniques: Listening to God" to increase your faith and expectancy about God revealing Himself to you.
- Take personal time with God for Meditation then Practice the Presence during your day.
- When we feel empty and unsatisfied, it's time to check in on our deepest core needs. *What other source are we expecting to fill those needs? Where are we relationally with the Lord?*
- Get in touch with your feelings by being honest with God. Journal about your issue using the handout "Tools & Techniques: I Feel But God Says." Take time in the coming days to search out Scriptures that offer you accurate expectations instead.
- If you need shoring up on your right-standing with God based on Jesus' finished work at the Cross, study the handout "Tools & Techniques: God Reconciles Us."
- Refer to this continuum to help you make a choice whenever storms threaten your peace:



- Use the handout "Tools & Techniques: Spiritual Blessings" to help you connect to the wonderful things you can expect from God as He does His internal work in you.
- Each step of our journey with God is intended to teach us to know and trust Him relationally. Developing a relational mindset could be depicted this way:



- Keep a record of what you discover in your notebook or spiritual journal. Come back next week ready to share what you experienced!