



# Holy Trinity Church Lent 2020 Expect More

## SMALL GROUP NOTES Week 1 – 'Flour and Oil'

### Read together 1 Kings 17.7-16

You might want to buy some pitta or flat bread and hand round to everyone a piece at this point – a handful of flour would have made a bread about the size of a small pitta. As you eat, what strikes you about this passage?

It's a terrible time of famine – death is but a meal away for this woman and her son – it's all planned out – a small final small bread to be baked and shared together – made from the last small handful of flour and a few drops of oil – then all will end. And God brings the prophet Elijah across her path – can I have some bread? He asks.

#### **What was it about Elijah that made the widow respond with obedience and generosity?**

Look at the way God provided for her – it wasn't a store house overflowing with multiple jars of flour – it was a daily renewing of her small resources so she had enough for herself, her son and her guest. Every day she went to her jar and jug and every day there was enough.

#### **What can we learn from the way God provided from her?**

#### **How might that help us and those we know in need?**

Have you ever had a time when things were tight? – where you felt you didn't have enough? It might have been finances, energy, emotional capacity, time, resources. You might be feeling like that right now.

#### **To what extent does this passage help?**

#### **To what extent did you experience the provision of God in those times?**

If you feel comfortable you could share some of these stories with each other.

### Read together Luke 21.1-4

#### **Discuss the similarities and differences between these stories?**

(if you were an outstanding Bible Study leader you could hand out chocolate coins at this moment – but then it is Lent so might not be the best idea!)

These two widows, these women are doing so much more than just being radically generous with their resources – they are saying to God – I yield, I trust, I obey. I'm giving you everything. In both cases it's a powerful act of surrender that goes far beyond their money and resources – something much deeper is going on in their hearts.

There's an old story about a dad who gave his son two 50 pence pieces as he heads for Church. He told the boy that he should give one 50p in the offering and he could keep the other to get an ice cream cone. (I guess that price for an ice cream cone proves how old the story is). As the boy walked down the street he accidentally dropped one of the 50ps on the floor – it fell through a drainage grill and disappeared from view. The boy looked for a moment down the drain and then slowly looked toward the sky, sighed and said, Well God, there goes your 50p!

**How do we decide which 50p is God's?**

**When it comes to our time, resources, money how do we decide what and how much to give away, and to whom?**

## Read 1 Kings 17.1-6

The background to today's earlier passage is really interesting. King Ahab had become King of Israel and married Jezebel as queen – she was daughter of the King of the Sidonians. Ahab and Jezebel lead Israel to worship other gods and things are pretty terrible in this time.

Elijah the prophet is given a message to proclaim from God that because of Ahab's terrible choices, there would be famine in the land. Elijah is then commanded to go to the Kerith Ravine where he drinks from the brook and eats food brought by ravens until the brook dries out. At that point he is commanded to go to Zarephath.

Zarephath is part of the Sidonian kingdom ruled by Jezebel's father and close geographically to Jezebel's home town. Elijah, God's prophet, has to travel to a potentially dangerous place and if he wishes to receive God's provision for him. And he goes in obedience. Dangerous ground lead to new opportunities.

It's interesting the links between taking risks, obedience, generosity and blessing.

**What do you make of all of this?**

**What 'dangerous places' might God be asking you/Holy Trinity to move to if we wish to experience 'more' of his generosity and blessing?**

**How do we feel about that?**

Ultimately Elijah is kept safe and used mightily by God, but all the events of Zarephath start with an act of obedience from Elijah to go, and an act of obedience from the widow to give.

## Response

**Look at the 'Prayers of surrender' – perhaps quietly or as a group – see if there's one that you feel able to pray in a time of quiet.**

## A PRAYER OF SURRENDER

LORD GOD,

I bring You **my brokenness**  
and lay it at Your feet.

This is not what I expected or wanted  
in my life, but I realize it's not my life to  
control and direct.

You are the Potter and I am a lump of  
marred and wounded clay.

You have Your reasons and Your design  
and purposes in mind.

Although I don't understand what those  
reasons are, I trust that You do and that

You will work this wound into  
**SOMETHING WONDERFUL**  
in my life.

I don't yet understand the purpose that  
can come from this pain, but I know You  
are a God who will do as You please, and  
it pleases You to make me  
more like Your Son.

I WILL TRUST  
THE  
PROCESS.

AND I WILL TRUST YOU.

## A Prayer of Surrender

Dear Father,  
I come before you with focused heart.  
How can I begin to express my gratitude  
for your great love for me?  
The depths of your love are so wide  
And so deep... and so long  
That I can only attempt  
To understand the vastness.  
While my mind can't comprehend Your  
Greatness in entirety,  
My heart's desire is to follow Your lead.  
Every step and every corner,  
I surrender to Your plan,  
no matter where it leads.  
While I haven't always been so willing,  
I'm renewing my vows to you, Lord.  
I beg you to take me and use me  
As only you can.  
No matter the time or place.  
It truly is my joy to say  
Your will. Your way.  
Amen.

[rachelwojo.com](http://rachelwojo.com)

## Prayer: *Surrender* **ALL to JESUS**



Today, as I come  
to the point of  
total submission to  
Your will, I thank  
You for the gift of  
life and for filling  
me with purpose.

No matter what You place  
on my heart Lord, I declare  
it will be done to the best  
of my ability, by the  
leading of the Holy Spirit.

Read full Prayer at: [christianstt.com](http://christianstt.com)



## St. Faustina's Prayer of Trust

When I look into the future, I am frightened,  
But why plunge into the future?  
Only the present moment is precious to me,  
As the future may never enter my soul at all.

It is no longer in my power,  
To change, correct or add to the past;  
For neither sages nor prophets could do that.  
And so, what the past has embraced I must  
entrust to God.

O present moment, you belong to me,  
whole and entire.  
I desire to use you as best I can.  
And although I am weak and small,  
You grant me the grace of your omnipotence.

And so, trusting in Your mercy,  
I walk through life like a little child,  
Offering You each day this heart  
Burning with love for Your greater glory.

*(Diary 2)*

### THE SURRENDER PRAYER

Ok God, here it is. I'm done trying to fix this. I've tried so hard and it hurts too much. I can't do this without you.

I'm giving it to you now. Thank you. You choose how you want it to be. Just let me know if there is any footwork you want me to do in order for me to once again be happy, joyous and free around this. I'm willing and ready.

Guide me. I love you God.

James Quine

## Prayer of surrender to God:

Dear Lord,

I surrender the leadership of my life into your care. I ask you to take control of my life, and to give me your guidance, wisdom, and direction that I so desperately need. I confess my stubbornness of heart and my desire to do things my way rather than your way. Help me Lord to learn how to follow your guidance and to hear your voice so that I may follow you. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen