

Kev's sermon notes for eGroups

Sunday, May 9, 2021 – Happy Mother's Day

Elevation Church - Broadcasting from Ballantyne Campus – Charlotte, NC USA

Pastor: Holly Furtick

Sermon Title: "Running on Empty" - There are days when we feel empty – In addition to feeling exhaustion and feeling empty, there are time when we are carrying extra weight (loneliness, bitterness, the weight of a prior season) – God does his best work when we are empty – Busy-ness does not mask emptiness - What to do? Cry out (Cry out to God everything), Reach Out (have real conversations and sharing some things - but not everything), and Pour Out – Get specific with God – You are always part of your own solution – We can't skip community and hide behind our glass smart phone screens – While in survival mode, our instinct is to hoard – We get scared of the empty spaces - Pouring out is scary when you are fighting for your life – God tells us to keep pouring – Pour with a purpose and realize the grace of God. Don't wait to feel full before you let God pour through you – Pour out and then live on what is left – When you are feeling empty, God says now let's get to work. God Loves when we are empty - Miracles happen when we are empty – Remember what jars you have built up as a reserve.

Elevation Worship + Branden Lakes + Maverick City Music

- "Lykyk"
- "Rattle" (Pastor Furtick's Mom's favorite song - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DzHx9OnhEdM>)
- "Talking To Jesus" with Branden Lakes at lead vocals (with incredible video tributes to Moms - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OXsxxw1fRHMA>)
- "The Blessing" (with 49 million YouTube views) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zp6aygmVzM4>
- "Come Again" - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FaJ3ZvAKOIM>

Scripture for this week:

- Romans 8: "26 In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. 27 And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God. 28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. 29 For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. 30 And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified."
- Numbers 6: "The Priestly Blessing: 22 The Lord said to Moses, 23 "Tell Aaron and his sons, 'This is how you are to bless the Israelites. Say to them: 24 ""The Lord bless you and keep you; 25 the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; 26 the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace."" 27 "So they will put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them."
- 2 Kings 4: 1 to 2: The Widow's Olive Oil - 4 The wife of a man from the company of the prophets cried out to Elisha, "Your servant my husband is dead, and you know that he revered the Lord. But now his creditor is coming to take my two boys as his slaves." 2 Elisha replied to her, "How can I help you? Tell me, what do you have in your house?" "Your servant has nothing there at all," she

said, "except a small jar of olive oil." 3 Elisha said, "Go around and ask all your neighbors for empty jars. Don't ask for just a few. 4 Then go inside and shut the door behind you and your sons. Pour oil into all the jars, and as each is filled, put it to one side." 5 She left him and shut the door behind her and her sons. They brought the jars to her and she kept pouring. 6 When all the jars were full, she said to her son, "Bring me another one." But he replied, "There is not a jar left." Then the oil stopped flowing. 7 She went and told the man of God, and he said, "Go, sell the oil and pay your debts. You and your sons can live on what is left."

- Psalm 34: The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are attentive to their cry; 16 but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil, to blot out their name from the earth. 17 The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them; he delivers them from all their troubles. 18 The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit. 19 The righteous person may have many troubles, but the Lord delivers him from them all; 20 he protects all his bones, not one of them will be broken.
- Luke 6:38: Judging Others - 37 "Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. 38 Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." 39 He also told them this parable: "Can the blind lead the blind? Will they not both fall into a pit? 40 The student is not above the teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like their teacher. 41 "Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? 42 How can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me take the speck out of your eye,' when you yourself fail to see the plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye."

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- **Please consider joining an eGroup (small group) so you don't have to walk this walk alone? – See www.elevationchurch.cc.**
- **Interested in joining Elevation Church: See: www.elevationchurch.cc**
- **Interested in leading an eGroup? See: www.elevationchurch.cc**
- **Interested in serving at Elevation Church: See: www.elevationchurch.cc**
- **Interested in attending or leading a watch party: See: www.elevationchurch.cc**

- Here Comes Church:
 - Interested in serving at Elevation Church: See: www.elevationchurch.cc
 - Please consider joining an eGroup (small group) so you don't have to walk this walk alone – See www.elevationchurch.cc. When you are isolated, you are an easy target for the enemy – and you don't have the benefit of friends to support you. Embrace the power of numbers.
 - Old Church Basement – just released – quote: “From Going back to the place where we discovered worship for the first time – not a physical place - accessing our first love (within ourselves) – bringing you back to a pure place – absent of self-consciousnesses.” “Our prayer is that his album pierces through the darkness and creates light in people's lives.”
 - Pop-up watch party in Philadelphia with 61 baptisms + outreach events.
 - Next Pop-Up watch party is in Phoenix Arizona
 - Recall the awesome video tributes to Moms all over the world.
 - Outreach update: Over \$7M given for education and personal development – In 2020, Over \$1M given to education partners to help during COVID to provide access to books and WiFi.
- **Opening prayer by Pastor Furtick on Sunday, May 9, 2021 - “I pray that your home be filled with shalom (peace) and with the supernatural inexplainable almighty God on this Mother's day – I pray for rest for your soul today – That the Holy Spirit (the comforter) would minister to you in this moment – That deep assurance of faith that all things are working together for the good for those that love the Lord and are called according to his purpose – I speak the blessing of contentment over your heart today – that you would know that what you have in your life right now can be enough if you celebrate it – I pray that God will give you the blessing of a new perspective on the things that you have been overlooking – I pray for the blessing of gratitude in your home today – That we begin to thank God for the silly things – That that we thank God for those million little miracles – And we thank God for even for this breath – I speak the blessing of reconciliation over your relationships today – I pray for reconciliation for those in your life where there's still a chance to come to agreement – I pray that God will give you open doors and divine favor in your relationships – I speak a blessing of provision over your life today in what seems like a season of lacking – I bless for the opportunity to manifest the abundance of the Almighty God in your life – I pray that you would see that Jehovah Jireh (the God who provides) in every situation of your life – but above all of these things – I speak the blessing of his presence over your life and over your family – over your loneliness – over your victories – in your valleys – in your morning – in your dancing – in your weeping – in your rejoicing – He is for you – And if he is for you who can be against you? I speak the blessing of Yahweh - the Almighty – I speak the blessing of the Almighty God in your life – May the Lord bless you and keep you – Make his face shine upon you – and be gracious to you – And turn his face toward you – And gives you His peace. Amen.**
- **Opening Prayer by Holly Furtick on May 9, 2021: “Happy Mother's day in the USA - Today is a day for special recognition of all the women that helped shape our faith and impact our lives – We celebrate the women that have quietly led with their own faith while nurturing our own – the college bible leader – the nurturing aunt – and many others. Without their faith we**

would not have our own – God provides exactly who we need for every single stage of our lives – we open up our hearts and we want to hear from you today – Open up our eyes so that we see the things that You want us to see – Lord please speak to us in an intimate and personal way – the way that you always do. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.”

- Recall the story that Holly shared about a woman raised in foster care and was inspired by many other women that helped her along.
- See 2 Kings 4: 1 to 8.
- Recall Holly Furtick sharing the fact that she picked a lot of interesting habits from her mom (forgetting to fill her gas tank, shopping for discounts, and not being punctual).
- Today I want to talk to you about “Running on Empty.”
- Have you ever prayed your way to the end of the day? And then realize that you had to do it all over again the next day? – When you realize you cannot be everything that everyone wants you to be – where you have nothing left to give.
- Some people need you to meet their physical needs – some people in your life need you to meet their emotional needs – some people depend on you to bring energy – some people depend on you to bring spiritual insight – some people in your life need food and transportation – and some people need you to do all of that plus support them financially.
- In the meantime, we are fighting our own battles – and all of these feelings can be overwhelming – making us feel drained – there are days when I feel empty – when we just feel out of gas.
- And there’s another kind of empty – in addition to the things that we just discussed - we are carrying an extra weight – perhaps a health issue – maybe you are grieving – maybe you’re going through a divorce – maybe you are remembering the pain of a prior season.
- And we can pretend things are OK for a little while however – and you are not even sure how long you can do that – and the emptiness suddenly makes you aware of your loneliness – this is where our widow is in 2nd Kings 4.
- Her husband – a good man who gave his life to God – is dead – custom called on the older son to care for the mother however her children are too young – at this time in history, becoming a widow like this meant a loss of livelihood – now she could potentially lose her sons because she can’t pay her debts – these boys needed her and now she think she is failing them.
- Have you ever felt the weight of other people needing you?
- **The woman is out of money – she is out of ideas – she is out of time – and she has run out of you, hope, and strength – this was not how she thought her life was going to go. And I am angry for this woman because she was faithful – yet she still suffering – and things are about to get a lot worse. Have you ever felt overwhelmed by the fact that you were faithful to God – and still came up empty? So, this is the question I’m in wrestling with – what do we do when we feel empty? Some of us know what it’s like to feel we are at the end of ourself – and depend on people to get through – where life is nothing more than a never ending loop of wake - work - and sleep?**
- Know this: God does some of the best work in me when I am empty.

- **Let's walk through the seven verses in 2nd Kings 4 to help us walk with God when we are feeling empty. There are three: Cry out, reach out, and pour out.**
- Cry out:
 - **See 2nd Kings 4: 1 – when you are feeling empty the first thing you need to do is cry out to God – this seems really simple – if we're honest, we have to admit that this is not the first thing we do – because we were too busy pretending (to ourselves) everything's OK – subconsciously we make our life more full so we don't have to feel the emptiness – busyness does not remedy emptiness – it might mask it for a little while.**
 - But in the end, I always feel as overwhelmed, tired, and overcommitted – where we conclude that everyone refuses to help with all of the dumb stuff we signed up to do – we then retreat and isolate ourselves and pretend that everything is awesome – then we start believing no one cares – and now we feel empty and alone.
 - The woman in 2nd Kings 4 probably wanted to protect her children from the desperate situation she was in – trying to be a mom and a dad and failing at both.
 - And when the woman comes at the end of a rope, she cries out to Elijah.
 - Many times, we hear the term cry out to God – recall Peter walking on water crying out to Jesus – recall when the blind man wanted to become healed, he cried out to Jesus – and every time that happened Jesus responded.
 - **See Psalm 34:17 “The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them; he delivers them from all their troubles.”**
 - **Why is it that crying out to God is our last resort and not our first resort? Perhaps we think in our core that God will do what we need him to do – or do anything for us – or maybe you pray to God and things got worse – or you asked God to change a situation but things are still the same – when we are in a state of frustration, we just tell ourselves that the only way to prevail is to muscle through the situation alone and without God – and we probably do this because we don't want to be a complaining and manipulative person - and put out worries on other people.**
 - The problem in finding a solution in people instead of God is that it makes us more disappointed with people in our lives – and it's not their fault.
 - And now we reach a point where we're not happy with God and we're frustrated with the people that are around us.
 - **People were not meant to take the place of God in our lives.**
 - There's a space in your life that only God can fill – when you cry out to him.
 - Psalm 34:17 says “The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them” – our Lord is close to the brokenhearted – God is close to those that are crushed in spirit – God hears your cry – let this sink in for a minute.
 - God will deliver you but not in the way that you imagined – and not when you want it to happen – but he will deliver you.
 - And stubbornness will delay the deliverance – God hears us any standby waiting to deliver you – and he can do this because he's close.

- God is close to the brokenhearted – he hears you because he’s with you – you may feel alone but you are not alone.
- Keep a journal when you’re going through a difficult situation.
- **In the middle of a valley, you don’t necessarily feel the presence of God – but he is with you in the darkness – and sometimes we don’t realize this until it’s over.**
- Reach out:
 - See 2nd Kings 4:2.
 - **Prophet asked two questions: How can I help? and what do you have in your house?**
 - **It is important to get really specific with God – because sometimes we cry out to God - and we don’t even know what we want.**
 - One of the hardest lessons that I’ve had to learn in my walk with God is that when I cry out to him – the first thing he wants me to work on is me – and here’s the craziest thing: when I begin to work on me, I start to see my situation change – I learned this in my marriage – when I change me, I change us. And then I discovered it works in all of my relationships.
 - **If we’re honest with ourselves, we are a bit lazy and we just want God to fix things – and not have to participate in the process – but this is not how God works.**
 - **The woman in 2nd Kings 4 cried out and needed provision – Pro – Vision – God wanted to see what she already had – even if it was something that seemed insignificant to her. You are always a part of your own solution – What do you have in your house?**
 - **The woman then went to all her neighbors to collect empty jars – here’s the important lesson: After crying out to God reach out to others.**
 - Some of us are really great and reaching out – but we forget to cry out to God first – or we cry out to God all day long but never reach out.
 - **Permit me to qualify what reaching out actually means: Because we live in a very strange world – and social media has gotten us a little mixed up – the real people that pray for you - that love you - and support you – and ask you how your appointment went – these are the people that are with you on your journey – and are a very important part of your healing – social media posts do not replace conversation.**
 - The woman didn’t scream of the time for her lungs in the middle of the street and say give me all your jars – how do you think that she got those jars? She went around and knocked on each door and had conversations.
 - Reaching out means sharing something – reaching out does not mean sharing everything – when you cry out, you tell God everything.
 - **I think the enemy has tried to steal our sense of community during the global pandemic – about one year ago the only thing we had to connect ourselves was a glass screen on a smart phone – but we cannot stay here.**
 - **If we only communicate via glass screens all we’re doing is shouting for jars – screaming things like Affirm me! Agree with me! This is not reaching out. We need face-to-face interaction with others. There is no substitute for that.**
 - Can you think of anyone else that might need your support right now?

- In every life the rain falls at some point – and there will be a time when you will need someone else – to lean on the support of others.
- They don't need to know everything - but they need to know a few things – otherwise how will they know that you need support?
- **What did the woman have? A little bit of oil and some neighbors.**
- Pour out:
 - See 2nd Kings 4:4 – “4 Then go inside and shut the door behind you and your sons. Pour oil into all the jars, and as each is filled, put it to one side. 5 She left him and shut the door behind her and her sons. They brought the jars to her and she kept pouring.”
 - **There comes a time in your life in your healing process when you have to shut the door and let God work a miracle.**
 - **The neighbors knew but they really didn't know. We can be vulnerable with people and still have privacy – not everyone needs to know everything – and some of you need to hear that – but there are some people in your life that you cannot hide from. The boys were with a woman when she shut the door. I wonder how much the boys knew about her situation and how much she tried to keep from them? When those closest to us watch us fight a battle, what feels like weakness to us appears in the form strength for them – in her weakest moment she was building the faith in her sons.**
 - Cry out - reach out - and now it's time to pour out.
 - **All the woman had to start with was a little bit of oil – it wasn't enough to do anything with - however it is all she had – and when we are in survival mode – our first instinct is to hoard everything that we have – every dollar - every minute - and every word. But the Prophet said pour.**
 - But pouring out is scary – what if you pour out and have nothing left for yourself? – What if no one recognizes me? What if no one appreciates me?
 - The prophet says keep pouring.
 - And sometimes, when we feel empty - it is because we are lost – where we feel like we have nothing to contribute.
 - **Recall Holly sharing a time in her life where she was feeling left out at the five-year point at Elevation Church and channeled her energies by filling jars in the form of leading an eGroup for young married women – and then I started to pour. It was just a little thing - but I kept pouring. And that eGroup came to an end so I started another eGroup – I then poured into them. And then I started another eGroup and I poured into them. From all those teachings and leading eGroups, I started a Bible study series for the women in our church.**
 - Sometimes we go through seasons – that is more than just a feeling of not having purpose – I feel that we don't have enough to make it.
 - **Some of you are going through the hardest thing you've ever been through right now – where are you fighting for your life – my message to you today is keep pouring. We have to keep pouring – because the miracle only happens when we move – it is while**

we are pouring when we experience God's strength – and His grace – and His joy – because now we're pouring with a purpose.

- The woman was pouring for her boys - but she was never pouring from a full jar – she was pouring from a jar that only had a little bit of oil – and if you wait until you feel full to pour – you'll never feel the experience of God in your life – and you'll never feel the miracle of God pouring through you. When you do pour it can feel like a sacrifice – a sacrifice that no one will ever see. See Luke 6:38: 38 Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." Be generous with your love. Be Generous with your time. Be generous with your encouragement. When you feel empty just keep pouring.
- See 2 Kings 4: 6 When all the jars were full, she said to her son, "Bring me another one." But he replied, "There is not a jar left." Then the oil stopped flowing. 7 She went and told the man of God, and he said, "Go, sell the oil and pay your debts. You and your sons can live on what is left."
- Here's a bonus point: Live off what is left – when you are in a pouring season – when you're fighting for your life – and you keep your head down and just keep pouring – you poor when you're tired – you poor when you feel like no one notices – you pour when everyone's kids are acting right except for yours – you poor when your friend gets pregnant by accident and you can't get pregnant on purpose – you poor when someone else gets the promotion – you poor when you need a healing in your own body – and then you realize – you made it through another day and you don't know how you do it – and then one day you turn around – you see a pantry full of jars with oil to live on. Live on what's left.
- During the peak of the pandemic, the church prayed about how they could help people – in response to this - Holly dusted off an old Bible study – thousands of women all over the world responded – and some how we made it through those dark days – now we see through the pain and confusion and heart ache – to see what we have been stockpiling – A friendship, a verse, a song, a gratitude journal, and the million little miracles.
- Don't be afraid of the empty spaces – because empty is where God does his best work.
- My faith grew the most during those times where I felt the most empty.
- And we get so afraid of being empty that we fail to realize – this is exactly where God wants us to be – when we feel empty, God says let's get to work – when God says what do you have? And God's response is "we can work with that."
- See the new song Come Again.
- There is a line in the song that says: This empty space is what you (God) wanted all along.
- God wants to fill that empty space in your heart that he can only fill – God does not need you to get it together – God is with you during our most desperate and challenging moments – God wants to heal your heart and give you joy – It starts when you cry out – then reach out – and then pour out.

Holly Furtick: "While in survival mode, our instinct is to hoard – We get scared of the empty spaces - Pouring out is scary when you are fighting for your life – God tells us to keep pouring – Pour with a purpose and realize the grace of God. Don't wait to feel full before you let God pour through you – And then live on what is left." - - **Question: #1 What jars had you filled in a prior season that are benefiting you now?**
#2: What jars are you filling now so that you thrive in a future season?

