



HAFTORAH INSIGHTS

REBBETZIN DR. ADINA SHMIDMAN
Director, OU Women's Initiative



What Do You Still Have?

MELACHIM II 4:1-37

When someone turns to us in distress, our attention naturally goes to how we can fix the problem. What does this person need? What can we do to ease their burden?

In this week's haftorah, Elisha asks a question that opens another possibility for helping. A widow approaches him in desperation. Her husband has died, leaving debts she cannot repay, and a creditor threatens to take her two sons as servants. Her words convey both grief and urgency: "Your servant, my husband, has died ... and the creditor has come to take my two children as his servants" (Melachim II 4:1).

Elisha responds: *מָה אֶעֱשֶׂה לָךְ הַגִּידִי לִי מָה*, *What can I do for you? Tell me, what do you have in the house?* (4:2). There are two questions here. The first expresses his readiness to help. The second turns her attention toward what she still possesses.

Her answer begins with emptiness: *אֵין לִשְׁפָחָתְךָ כֹּל בְּבֵית*, *Your maidservant has*

nothing in the house. Then comes a qualification: *כִּי אֶם-אֶסֶנֶךָ שָׁמֶן*, *except a flask of oil.* That small exception becomes the beginning of her salvation.

The Malbim explains why Elisha asks what she has: *על אין הברכה שורה על אין, רק על דבר יש, blessing does not rest upon nothingness, but upon something that exists.* Elisha seeks something upon which Hashem's blessing can take hold, and the remaining oil provides that foundation. At his instruction, she borrows empty vessels and begins to pour. Miraculously, the oil continues to flow, providing enough to repay her debt and sustain her family.

The Malbim's explanation describes how the miracle unfolds, but it also invites us to consider how we respond to a person in difficulty. Pain can make loss all-consuming. A person may struggle to see beyond the job that ended, the relationship that fractured, or the plan that fell apart. The difficulty is real, and practical assistance may be essential. Yet alongside what has been lost, something remains: an ability, a relationship, knowledge acquired over years, or the willingness to try again. Sometimes another person can help us recognize what we can no longer see for ourselves.

Elisha does not minimize the widow's distress. His first words are, "What can I do for you?" His question about her home grows out of that concern. Before giving

A Way Forward

Addiction & Relationship Therapy

Dr. Yaacov Rosedale

Substance Use

Internet Addiction

Couples & Relationships

+972-52-808-4406

yaacovmr@gmail.com

Now Accepting Clients on Fridays

her instructions, he helps her identify a starting point.

Helping someone find that starting point requires attentiveness: listening long enough to understand the difficulty and looking carefully enough to recognize the person's resources. It may also require lending our own time, knowledge, or support so those resources can be used.

"What do you have in the house?" becomes a question we can carry into our encounters with others. What remains that we can build upon? What possibility needs encouragement? What first step can we help make possible?

The widow's flask was small, but it held the beginning of a future she could not yet imagine. Sometimes our task is to help another person see that beginning—and stay close as they take the next step. ■



NEXT TO BAKA - EIN GEDI ST.

Boutique building, bright 4 rooms, 110m², 1st floor., balcony, professionally designed apartment.

5.300.000 NIS AGENTS FEE: 2% + VAT

CITY CENTER - HANEVIIM ST.

Modern, boutique building, 3 rooms, 2 balconies, furnished, quiet, parking, designed by architect.

3.950.000 NIS

BAKA - New penthouse 180m² on one level, 20m² sukkah balcony, 40m² storeroom (office/clinique).

10.500.000 NIS

ARNONA HATZEIRA - Large 3 bedrooms, sukkah balcony, elevator, south facing, covered parking, storeroom.

3.900.000 NIS

NORTH TALPIOT - Boutique building, upgraded finishes, 4 large rooms, quiet, 110m², 3 WC, 2 bathrooms, balcony, open view, south /west, Shabbat elevator, 3rd floor parking, storeroom.

5.250.000 NIS

BAKA - CHELETZ ST.

Boutique building, 5 rooms turned into 4, 1st floor, 135m², 2 balconies one sukkah 15m² each, store room, Shabbat elevator, safe room, parking.

6.500.000 NIS MICHAEL 052-320-2488

75% SOLD OUT!



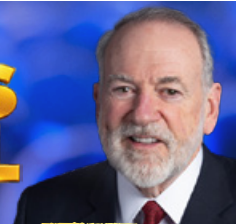
SASHA TROUFANOV & SAPIR COHEN
Hamas Captivity Survivors

StandWithUs

OUR VOICES FOR ISRAEL

Jerusalem Gala

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2026
DOORS OPEN 7PM | YMCA THEATER



AMB. MIKE HUCKABEE
United States Ambassador to Israel



M.C.
MICHAEL DICKSON
Executive Director of StandWithUs, Israel



A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO
SGT. NATAN ROSENFELD Z"L



ROZ ROTHSTEIN
CEO and co-founder, StandWithUs

PROGRAM FOLLOWED BY RECEPTION

GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY
standwithus.com/jerusalem-gala