

# 2 Kings 4:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then he said, Go, borrow thee vessels abroad of all thy neighbours, even empty vessels; borrow not a few.

## Analysis

---

**Then he said, Go, borrow thee vessels abroad of all thy neighbours, even empty vessels; borrow not a few.**

This verse contributes to the overall theme of chapter 4: God's compassionate power through His prophet. The prophetic ministry served as God's primary means of covenant enforcement, calling both kings and people to faithfulness. During this period, Israel and Judah struggled with persistent idolatry, particularly Baal worship introduced under Ahab and Jezebel.

The narrative demonstrates God's justice in judging covenant unfaithfulness while maintaining His ultimate purposes for redemption.

## Historical Context

---

**Historical Setting:** 2 Kings 4 takes place during the Elisha prophetic ministry, approximately 850-800 BCE. The chapter's theme (Elisha's Miracles of Provision and Life) reflects the historical reality of God's compassionate provision through prophetic miracles while both kingdoms struggled with persistent idolatry. Archaeological evidence from this period includes royal inscriptions, administrative documents, and material culture that corroborate the biblical account while providing additional context for understanding the political and social dynamics at work.

## Related Passages

## John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

## Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

## Study Questions

1. How does this verse contribute to understanding the theological message of 2 Kings 4 regarding god's compassionate power through his prophet?
2. What does this passage reveal about God's character, particularly His justice, mercy, and faithfulness to covenant promises?
3. In what practical ways should this text shape contemporary Christian thinking about faithfulness, worship, and obedience to God?

## Interlinear Text

כָּל־מַאֲתָה חֹץ מִן הַחֵץ וְיֶזַע אֶמְרָה  
Then he said H1980 borrow H7592 the vessels H3627 abroad H2351 H853 H3605

וְשָׂכַרְךָ יְכִי שְׁכָרָם כָּל־יָם רֶק־יָם אֶל תִּמְעִיטִי:  
of all thy neighbours H7934 the vessels H3627 even empty H7386 H408 borrow not a few H4591

## Additional Cross-References

**John 2:7** (Parallel theme): Jesus saith unto them, Fill the waterpots with water. And they filled them up to the brim.

**Psalms 81:10** (Parallel theme): I am the LORD thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt: open thy mouth wide, and I will fill it.

**John 16:24** (Parallel theme): Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.

