Empty Isn’t All Bad

1 kings 17: 1-16 And Elijah the Tishbite, of the inhabitants of Gilead, said to Ahab, "As the Lord God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, except at my word." 2 Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, 3 "Get away from here and turn eastward, and hide by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan. 4 And it will be that you shall drink from the brook, and I have commanded the ravens to feed you there." 5 So he went and did according to the word of the Lord, for he went and stayed by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan. 6 The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning, and bread and meat in the evening; and he drank from the brook. 7 And it happened after a while that the brook dried up, because there had been no rain in the land. 8 Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, 9 "Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. See, I have commanded a widow there to provide for you." 10 So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, indeed a widow was there gathering sticks. And he called to her and said, "Please bring me a little water in a cup, that I may drink." 11 And as she was going to get it, he called to her and said, "Please bring me a morsel of bread in your hand." 12 So she said, "As the Lord your God lives, I do not have bread, only a handful of flour in a bin, and a little oil in a jar; and see, I am gathering a couple of sticks that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die." 13 And Elijah said to her, "Do not fear; go and do as you have said, but make me a small cake from it first, and bring it to me; and afterward make some for yourself and your son. 14 For thus says the Lord God of Israel: 'The bin of flour shall not be used up, nor shall the jar of oil run dry, until the day the Lord sends rain on the earth.' " 15 So she went away and did according to the word of Elijah; and she and he and her household ate for many days. 16 The bin of flour was not used up, nor did the jar of oil run dry, according to the word of the Lord which He spoke by Elijah. NKJV

Empty words can create empty seasons that leave us empty-handed. But, God has provided empty tracks that lead us to His empty promises.

- Empty words
  Sometimes we create our own problems
  Tell the truth. Tell the whole truth.
  Boys don’t honor their words, men do!

- Empty Seasons
  Sometimes we create our own drought!
  God may feed you in a way you don’t want
  People get bitter when their river runs dry. God wants to be your source, not the river.
  One of the reasons for the drought season is to get to the last thing you are holding onto.
  If He can’t get it in the time of plenty, He may have to send drought to pry it from your hands.
  My drought season pried some things out of me that I will never regret. It was one of the greatest seasons of my life.
  You can be walking with the Lord and still go through the empty seasons.
Empty Handed
God may allow you to be in a place where you need help to show you what you have not noticed (TJ – there are people all around that love you)
The ravens fed him
Then he had to go and find a widow. As a preacher, it is a bad time to take up an offering from a widow in the middle of the drought.

Empty Tracks
There is generally good and bad going on at the same time. Rick Warren
She was preparing to die. She was gathering sticks, building a fire and cooking to die.
Don’t do the hard work just to die. Prepare to live.
Her plan was empty.
She needed him as bad as he needed her!
You can’t jump 6 steps up; you can only jump 6 steps down

Empty Promises
He doesn’t show you the widow until after the brook drys up.
The meal doesn’t run dry until it rains
The manna doesn’t stop until the day after you get in Canaan
He has a plan and

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