

God Gives Life to a Boy

II Kings 4:8-37

Death – happens to all people

- Heb. 9:27 – great appointment all keep
- Carl Jung – Death is “a period placed before the end of a sentence.”
- “Death is a cruel thing when it strikes the young.”
- Boy in lesson text is thought to be young
- Rev. 1:8 – when Jesus rose from the dead, He snatched the keys of Hades and Death from the hand of Satan
- Death no longer has dominion over those in Christ

A Place to Call Home

God’s prophets often relied on the hospitality of others

Jesus had no earthly home – often stayed in Bethany with Mary, Martha, Lazarus

Elisha – took over for Elijah

- Hometown = Abel-Meholah
- Went to Mt. Carmel to pray
- Shunem – 20 miles away – half way

4:8 In Shunem, met a noble woman

Apparently wealthy

Willing to use her means to help others

9 Realized Elisha and Gehazi passed by frequently on their travels

10 Built a room for Elisha to stay in – bed, table, stool, candlestick

Elisha’s home away from home

Elisha repaid the Shunamite Woman’s Kindness

12 Gehazi instructed to call the woman

13 Told to ask what he could do for her to repay her for her help

14 She was reluctant to give an answer

Gehazi noticed she had no children and her husband is old – no chance

Appears they tries and failed

What better to give than a son?

In that time, every man wanted a son to carry on his name and women were measured by whether they could have children or not.

- 15 Told to call the woman to his room
- 16 Elisha's unbelievable words – having a son next year
Did not seem possible
Similar to Abraham and Sarah in Gen. 18:10-14
- V. 14 – “Is anything too hard for God?”
 - God does what He sees fit!
- 17 God kept His Word

The Greatest of Sorrows

- Experiencing a joyous occasion
- 18 Child has grown
Old enough to go visit his father
- 19 Said his head was hurting him
Servant instructed to carry the boy to his mother
Obviously still very young
- 20 Sat in his mother's lap until he died
- 21 Took him and laid him in Elisha's bed
- 22 Calls her husband to send one of the young men and a donkey to take her to Elisha
- 23 For whatever reason, she doesn't mention the boy
Asked what the occasion was – not a special day
Answer: NKJV “It is well”
Why no mention?
- Jews buried their dead the same day they died
 - May have been concerned if he knew, they would bury him then – not ready to give him up!
 - Obviously believed the man that promised a son could do something!
- 24 Gets on the donkey
Told to go until she says stop!

- 25 Elisha sees her and knows something is wrong
- 26 Servant to ask if all is well with her, her husband, and son
Answered: "It is well"
- 27 Gets to Elisha, falls at his feet and grabs on!
Gehazi tries to push her away
Elisha tells him to stop
- Jesus used similar words when the Disciples urged Him to send the Canaanite woman away – MT 15:22-23
- Also reprimanded the Disciples when they tried to turn away the children – MT 19:13-15
- 28 Woman is bitter – blames Elisha
Similar to Elijah and Sidonian woman – I Kings 17
- 29 Elisha's response was not to condemn her but to send Gehazi with his staff and place in on the boy's face
- 30 Woman not going to leave Elisha
- 31 Staff did nothing
Heartbreaking
- 32 Boy still on Elisha's bed
- 33 Shut the door
Prayed to God
- 34 Literally lays on top of the boy
Similar to Sidonian woman except here covers eyes/mouth/hands with eyes/hands/mouths
Body is warm
- 35 Elisha gets up, probably praying as he leaves
Boy sneezes 7 times
- Spirits cannot sneeze – similar to eating
 - Suggested that it forced out the toxins
- 26 Told to get the son
- 37 Fell down and bowed before leaving

God Was Not Finished With Her Yet

- 8:1 Already received 2 blessings – miraculous
 Non-miraculous this time
 Kept a relationship with this woman
 7-year famine ahead, warned to leave
- 2 She got up and dwelt with Philistines
 No mention of husband – possibly dead (he was older)
- 3 In the move, she lost all her possessions
- 4 Gehazi mentions all that happened to the king
- 5 She appears to the king
- 6 King made immediate decision
 Restored everything – plus everything she would have had

Lessons:

1. This story illustrates God’s involvement in the lives of people that trust in Him.
2. This woman and husband were obvious faithful servants of God. They made it a practice to gather on special days to hear God’s Word.
3. It clearly demonstrates the woman’s faith.
4. There is no indication that this woman did not respect her husband’s leadership in the home, but she took the initiative to be hospitable to Elisha.
5. Respect for God, for His Word, and for His servants is clearly seen in the woman’s generosity and hospitality. Heb. 13:2
6. The woman was obviously wealthy, but she is an example of one who having been blessed, used her blessings to bless others.
7. When offered anything she wanted for her service to Elisha, she wanted nothing in return.
8. Blessings from God for service rendered may not always be seen in this world, but the blessing that comes from serving brings its own reward. God promised that even a “cup of cold water” given in His name will not go unrewarded (MT. 10:42).

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