

# **Elisha, the Prophet of Grace**

## **5) It Is Well**

***'Now it happened one day that Elisha went to Shunem, where there was a notable woman, and she persuaded him to eat some food. So it was, as often as he passed by, he would turn in there to eat some food. And she said to her husband, "Look now, I know that this is a holy man of God, who passes by us regularly. Please, let us make a small upper room on the wall; and let us put a bed for him there, and a table and a chair and a lampstand; so it will be, whenever he comes to us, he can turn in there"'***

**(2 Kings 4:8-10)**

✓ **This notable woman gave hospitality to Elisha. She invited him to eat food, which in that culture meant more than to have a meal; rather to have fellowship**

✓ **She then proposed building a room onto their house for him to stay whenever he wanted to**

✓ **A bed, table, chair, lampstand**

✓ **The birth, death and resurrection principle**

## **1) Birth**

**1)'And it happened one day that he came there, and he turned in to the upper room and lay down there. Then he said to Gehazi his servant, "Call this Shunammite woman." When he had called her, she stood before him. And he said to him, "Say now to her, 'Look, you have been concerned for us with all this care. What can I do for you? Do you want me to speak on your behalf to the king or to the commander of the army?'" She answered, "I dwell among my own people." So he said, "What then is to be done for her?" And Gehazi answered, "Actually, she has no son, and her husband is old." So he said, "Call her." When he had called her, she stood in the doorway. Then he said, "About this time next year you shall embrace a son." And she said, "No, my lord. Man of God, do not lie to your maidservant!" But the woman conceived, and bore a son when the appointed time had come, of which Elisha had told her'**

**(2 Kings 4:11-17)**

- ✓ **Elisha asked, 'What can I do for you?' But unlike many she was content with her situation. She did not need anything materially, nor desired to climb the social ladder**
- ✓ **But she was barren and there was a stigma associated with barrenness. This son would remove that stigma, and also answer the longing of her heart**
- ✓ **It was an unasked miracle. Something which God initiated; a work of grace. It was birthed of God**
- ✓ **She didn't believe Elisha, but the next year she held the promised son in her arms**

□ **But then...**

## **2) Death**

✓ **The miracle son died**

✓ *'And she went up and laid him on the bed of the man of God, shut the door upon him, and went out' (2 Kings 4:14)*

✓ **This is a great demonstration of her faith. She prepared for the boy's resurrection, not his burial**

✓ **She laid him on the prophet's bed – back to the place of promise. She shut the door upon him, and went out as if to say, 'God, YOU spoke the Word now it's up to you to make it good'**

✓ **She probably heard of the raising of the widow's son in Zarephath by Elijah, and that the spirit of Elijah rested on Elisha**



✓ **Her husband said, "Why are you going to him today? It is neither the New Moon nor the Sabbath' And she said, "It is well" (2 Kings 4:23). It seems he thought that nothing could be done except on a Sabbath or new moon**

✓ **'And so she departed, and went to the man of God at Mount Carmel. So it was, when the man of God saw her afar off, that he said to his servant Gehazi, "Look, the Shunammite woman! Please run now to meet her, and say to her, 'Is it well with you? Is it well with your husband? Is it well with the child?'" And she answered, "It is well." It is always 'well' to those who know God and trust Him (Rom.8:28)**



**✓ She came to Elisha who was unaware of what had happened. Though a prophet, he did not know about this**

**✓ She reminded Elisha that she had not asked for a son. She also reminded him that she had warned him not to play games with her about this, because this was far too important to her**

### **3) Resurrection**

*'Then he said to Gehazi, "Get yourself ready, and take my staff in your hand, and be on your way. If you meet anyone, do not greet him; and if anyone greets you, do not answer him; but lay my staff on the face of the child"'*

**(2 Kings 4:29)**

- ✓ **Elisha's staff was powerless because it was in the hands of Gehazi. Some things cannot be delegated**
- ✓ **The God who miraculously gives life to the barren, is the same God who raises the dead. He who gives the first is the one we must turn to for the second**
- ✓ **Jesus is the resurrection and the life**

***'When Elisha came into the house, there was the child, lying dead on his bed. He went in therefore, shut the door behind the two of them, and prayed to the LORD. And he went up and lay on the child, and put his mouth on his mouth, his eyes on his eyes, and his hands on his hands; and he stretched himself out on the child, and the flesh of the child became warm. He returned and walked back and forth in the house, and again went up and stretched himself out on him; then the child sneezed seven times, and the child opened his eyes. And he called Gehazi and said, "Call this Shunammite woman." So he called her. And when she came in to him, he said, "Pick up your son." So she went in, fell at his feet, and bowed to the ground; then she picked up her son and went out'***

**(2 Kings 4:32-37)**

- ✓ **Although miracles were mostly instant, yet sometimes they were done by degrees, as here, and 1 Kings 18:41-45; Mark 8:24-25**

***'By faith...women received their dead raised to life again' (Heb.11:35)***

**The birth, death and resurrection principle  
is at the heart of the Christian faith**

## **Examples**

- ✓ **Abraham**
- ✓ **Jacob**
- ✓ **Joseph**
- ✓ **Moses**

## The Sequel

□ *'Then Elisha spoke to the woman whose son he had restored to life, saying, "Arise and go, you and your household, and stay wherever you can; for the Lord has called for a famine, and furthermore, it will come upon the land for seven years'*  
**(2 Kings 8:1)**



**\*The first thing Elisha did before the famine was to go to the Shunammite woman and warn her and her family to leave the land**

**\*She immediately obeyed. This meant leaving her home. It appears that during the seven years she was gone, someone had seized her house and land as if it had been abandoned**

**\*When they wouldn't give it back, she went to make an appeal to the king. She knew she had favor with men since she has favor with God. So she marched in faith toward the king**

**□ 'Then the king talked with Gehazi, the servant of the man of God, saying, "Tell me, please, all the great things Elisha has done." Now it happened, as he was telling the king how he had restored the dead to life, that there was the woman whose son he had restored to life, appealing to the king for her house and for her land. And Gehazi said, "My lord, O king, this is the woman, and this is her son whom Elisha restored to life." And when the king asked the woman, she told him. So the king appointed a certain officer for her, saying, "Restore all that was hers, and all the proceeds of the field from the day that she left the land until now"'**

**(2 Kings 8:4-6)**