

Series: Stand Fast In the Lord

THE SHUNAMITE WOMAN (PT. 2)

2 KINGS 4

Text:

Introduction:

This morning we looked at the Consideration of this Woman, the Call to the Woman, the Conception and Birth Promised, and the Child's Death.

We continue this evening in considering:

Sermon Content:

1. THE CHASE AFTER ELISHA (VSS. 22-25)

2 Kings 4:22-25

²² And she called unto her husband, and said, Send me, I pray thee, one of the young men, and one of the asses, that I may run to the man of God, and come again.

²³ And he said, Wherefore wilt thou go to him to day? it is neither new moon, nor sabbath. And she said, It shall be well. ²⁴ Then she saddled an ass, and said to her servant, Drive, and go forward; slack not thy riding for me, except I bid thee. ²⁵ So she went and came unto the man of God to mount Carmel. And it came to pass,

when the man of God saw her afar off, that he said to Gehazi his servant, Behold, yonder is that Shunammite:

The Shunammite mother respectfully ask her husband to send a servant and donkey so that she can flee to Elisha for help.

It seems that the boy's dad doesn't know his son is dead as he ask his wife why she wanted to go as it wasn't the Sabbath or a new moon.

She tells her husband that it will be alright.

She seems to be composed, calm, and not in a panic.

How could everything be fine when her son just died?

The answer is this woman believes that Elisha can perform a miracle.

She was not preparing to bury her son.

She was truly preparing for God's intervention and a miracle.

That is why she said, "It shall be well." What a lesson for us!

You may be going through some severe trials right now in your life. Let me encourage you to do what this

woman did. Place your worries and problems in God's hands and all will be well in His time and in His own way.

He will either change your circumstance or He will change you and strengthen you to go through your storm.

1 Peter 5:7

⁷ Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

She saddled the donkey and commanded her servant, "Go! Hurry!

Don't slow down at all unless I tell you!

As the woman approached Mount Carmel where Elisha lived, he saw her coming in the distance and recognized her.

He told Gehazi, "Look, the Shunammite woman is coming."

If you have a burden, does the Lord say, "Look, so and so has come to me for help."

Do you go to Him each day for a time of fellowship and prayer?

Realize that coming to the Lord is always a good decision!

Note not only the Chase of Elisha but also:

2. THE CONCERN OF ELISHA (VSS. 26-28)

2 Kings 4:26-28

²⁶ Run now, I pray thee, to meet her, and say unto her, Is it well with thee? is it well with thy husband? is it well with the child? And she answered, It is well. ²⁷ And when she came to the man of God to the hill, she caught him by the feet: but Gehazi came near to thrust her away. And the man of God said, Let her alone; for her soul is vexed within her: and the LORD hath hid it from me, and hath not told me. ²⁸ Then she said, Did I desire a son of my lord? did I not say, Do not deceive me?

Elisha commands Gehazi to greet the woman and find out if everything is okay with her.

This trip was out of the ordinary and he could see that she was moving pretty fast.

Gehazi asked, "Is it well with thee, your husband, your child?"

She responded by saying that everything was okay.

This is the second time we read of her saying this.

This woman did what many people do.

How many times has someone asked you how you were doing and you told them you were doing fine, when in reality, you were not fine at all?

The Shunammite did the same thing.

She did not share her true feelings because she did not want to talk to the servant, she wanted to talk to Elisha.

She had a thing or two to say to him.

When she comes before Elisha, she does become very emotional.

She grabbed the prophet's feet in an act of humility and also desperation.

Elisha discerned that obviously something was seriously wrong and had Gehazi leave her alone.

The prophet could see that this mother was vexed.

Her trouble was seen in her anger.

She ask, "Did I ask for a son?"

Did I not tell you to not deceive me?"

She did not want to be going through the agony she was experiencing that day.

She did not want to be promised a child and not have one.

She also did not want her son taken away from her that she waited so long to have.

Understand:

What happened to her son was not Elisha's fault.

Yet, she seems to be rebuking him and accusing the prophet of betraying or lying to her with her questions about her child.

To have a son and lose him was worse than not having one at all.

Her heart was broken, and bitter.

He obviously understood what she said and remembered his promise.

Notice what he does next. He does not waste any time.

3. THE COMMAND TO GEHAZI (VS. 29)

2 Kings 4:29

²⁹ Then he said to Gehazi, Gird up thy loins, and take my staff in thine hand, and go thy way: if thou meet any man, salute him not; and if any salute thee, answer him not again: and lay my staff upon the face of the child.

The prophet commanded his servant to flee immediately to the woman's home as fast as possible.

He was to tuck his robe in his belt and move swiftly. He was to take the staff of Elisha with him.

He was not to stop and greet people, even if they said "Hello" to him.

He was to get to the boy and place the staff on the boy's face.

The key though in this verse is to avoid distractions.

The servant was not to get side-tracked, not to delay, or waste any time at all.

This truth applies to us too, beloved.

We have an urgent mission to get the Gospel to the unsaved.

Souls are at stake for eternity.

We are not to waste time.

We are not to delay serving the Lord until we get old.

We are not to get distracted from doing our duty to the Lord.

Satan has a clever way of getting us distracted and off course to the point we don't grow in the Lord.

The distractions of Satan can make one unstable.

This leads us to consider:

4. THE COMMITMENT OF THE MOTHER (VS. 30)

2 Kings 4:30

³⁰ And the mother of the child said, As the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee. And he arose, and followed her.

This woman was not going anywhere without Elisha.

She tells him plainly, "I am not leaving your side at all."

She knew that Elisha was crucial to her son's resurrection.

Her words may have impressed Elisha because they were the same words he said to Elijah before the Lord took him away in the whirlwind.

She would not go home unless Elisha came back with her, so he decided to follow her back to her home.

When it comes to the Lord, our attitude should be the same. Lord, I will not leave Thee!

We should purpose in our hearts to be faithful and steadfast in living for Christ.

Note:

1 Corinthians 15:58

⁵⁸ Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

This leads us to consider one final thought:

5. THE CALL TO THE LORD (VS. 31-33)

2 Kings 4:31-33

³¹ And Gehazi passed on before them, and laid the staff upon the face of the child; but there was neither voice, nor hearing. Wherefore he went again to meet him, and told him, saying, The child is not awaked. ³² And when Elisha was come into the house, behold, the child was dead, and laid upon his bed. ³³ He went in therefore, and shut the door upon them twain, and prayed unto the LORD.

Gehazi arrived before everyone else and followed Elisha's instructions.

He laid the staff on the boy's face, but nothing happened. He reported back to Elisha.

When Elisha arrived he saw that the child was dead. He cleared the room and began to call out to the Lord in prayer.

There was no one they could turn to except God. You will find as you go through life that you will be in some situations where that is all you can do is call out to God and see what He wants to do.

You will find in those intense situations that God can do some pretty remarkable things.

Note:

Jeremiah 33:3

³ Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.

While Elisha was praying, where do you think the mother wanted to be?

I would say she would want to be in that room, but by waiting outside, she demonstrated her patience and submission to Elisha.

She did not bang on the door wanting to know what was going on in the room.

She waited until she was called.

Submission is difficult, but it is the way we mature in our faith and grow in our trust of God's will and plan for our lives.

Close:

Following the prayer we read in verses 34-37:

2 Kings 4:34-37

³⁴ And he went up, and lay upon the child, and put his mouth upon his mouth, and his eyes upon his eyes, and his hands upon his hands: and he stretched himself

*upon the child; and the flesh of the child waxed warm.
35 Then he returned, and walked in the house to and
fro; and went up, and stretched himself upon him: and
the child sneezed seven times, and the child opened his
eyes. 36 And he called Gehazi, and said, Call this
Shunammite. So he called her. And when she was come
in unto him, he said, Take up thy son. 37 Then she went
in, and fell at his feet, and bowed herself to the ground,
and took up her son, and went out.*

This trial was a heavy burden that brought great blessing and joy.

God can do that for you, too.

May we learn to trust in Him in the most difficult of times.