

I. A Great Woman

Her character, 8-17

- Great, 8 (wealthy, but sharing). One day
- Hospitable, 8. (Gn.18)
- Devout, 9 (Elisha is “holy man of God”)
- Considerate, 10 (thought of others)
- Contented, 11-13. (1 Tim.6:6)

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But she lacked one thing, 14-17

- Sarah...Rebekah...Rachel...Hannah...Elizabeth
- Do not lie [raise false hopes...] Lk.1:18-20
- 16-17 she conceived: fulfilled Elisha’s prophecy. [Gn.18:14]

Application

- Mt.10:42, *whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple, assuredly I say to you he shall by no means lost his reward...* [= because he is a prophet] ...assuredly I say to you he shall by no means lose his reward.
- *Her reward: a son*
- We cannot outgive God
- 2 K.4:16 . . . Is anything too hard for the LORD?
[Gn.18:14] 2 K.4:17

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II. A Grateful Guest

“After associating with sinners,
it is delightful to visit with saints”

- Powerful men felt indebted to Elisha
 - 13: his relation to court is different from Elijah's: he enjoys court's esteem / influence
 - Anticipates 2 K.8: Gehazi will speak to king
 - 14: saints try to outdo one another in giving honor, Ro.12:10
- Elisha's hostess gift: promise of son
 - 14: shame of barrenness; old husband...
 - 16: true prophets did not lie

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III. A Grieving Mother

Son is born; joy; interval; tragedy [18-26]

Father does not realize gravity of son's illness



Dies in mother's arms; she loses son, not faith

Cannot avoid tragedies; can avoid wrong reactions

She does not . . .

- Curse God and die. Job 2:9
- Lose faith. 1 K.17:17. 2 K.4
- Trust in self-sufficiency.
 - *All is well, 21-23*
 - *Great faith, 24-26*

15-25 miles...
Shunem to Carmel.
Active faith
Personal plea

-  Calf idol set up by Jeroboam
-  Town attacked by Shishak (according to Egyptian records)



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IV. A Gracious God

Gracious God, 27-37

- 27: in bitter distress, grabs Elisha's feet... (Mk.5:22)
- 28: she never clearly says her son has died
- 29: staff useless by itself... Needs God
- 30: his feet will not move 'til he turns toward Shunem
- 32-37: like Elijah (1 K.17); alive again; now she bows to give thanks

2 Kings 8:1-6, epilogue

Seven year famine in Israel, not Philistia

Widow arrives as Gehazi relates miracles of Elisha
(4-5)

God's perfect timing can use people without
destroying free will

Lessons

9: power of good example

- Many sorry 'prophets' in Israel

1 K.13

Unholy Jeroboam
(Mt.5:16)

1 K.19:1-3

Jezebel hated
holiness

Do all things without complaining and disputing, that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world – Ph.2:14-15

Lessons

30-31: power of faith

- A powerless staff confirms death.
- Hb.11:35, women received their dead raised to life...
- What if her son had stayed dead?
 - [Would be 'well' because he was with God – the mother's ultimate goal]

Lessons

32-33: power of God (One greater than Elisha)

- Mt.16:18, gates: power of hades conquered everyone – good, bad, rich, poor... 'til Jesus
- Conquered everyone – good, bad, rich, poor – until Jesus

Lessons

33: power of prayer

- Some want to help, but cannot
- Ja.5:16, Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

Lessons

36-37: provision of God – cares for us as individuals

- 1 Pt.5:7, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.
- 2 Kg.4:1-7...
 - Both accounts: good women; supported truth
 - One rich, one poor; God cared for both
 - The woman's deeds did her talking

Lessons

1 Kg.17; 2 K.4, OT previews of final resurrection –
power of Christ