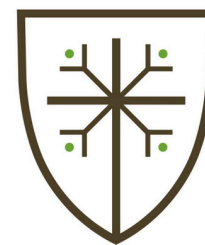




ELISHA

Renewal in the Spirit

SERMON NOTES



June 9, 2024

SERMON INFO

TITLE

“Beyond Broken Dreams”

PREACHER

Rev. Craig Chapman

TEXTS

2 Kings 4:25-37

Romans 5:1-5

John 11:17, 21-27

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Consider a season in your own life characterized by dreams that weren't realized in the way you'd imagined. How did your faith shape your response to that situation?
2. How is the Christian's faithful response of turning to God in the midst of suffering a witness of God's power and goodness to a broken world?

SERMON IN SUMMARY

This week, Craig continued our series on the life of Elisha by asking the question, “How do we respond to broken dreams?”

Choices

Our Old Testament story of the Shunammite woman is one sadly characterized by broken dreams. The woman has no son in her old age, a circumstance that would have put her and her husband in disgrace, having no one to continue their family. But this is not, first and foremost, what is recorded about the woman. What we learn is that she made a place for the Lord's prophet. She noticed a need, the man of God continually passing their way, and used her resources to meet it. Elisha recognizes the woman's faithfulness and asks God to give her a son. God grants her a son. But then, this one that was granted to her is taken away. And the woman again responds in faith to the one she knows can bring life. She accepts nothing less than the presence of the man of God himself to raise her child from the dead. There are three ways we can respond in the face of broken dreams: denial that we even had the dream, despondence that it has been taken away, or denying ourselves in humility and seeking without reserve the God who heals both body and spirit. When your dreams are broken, do you respond in faith and run to God like the Shunammite woman? Do you let the suffering of broken dreams turn you to hope?

Hope

God always brings life where we expected to find death. But it may not always look like the life we imagined. Surely the Shunammite woman did not expect her miracle son, given her in old age, to be taken away by illness and death. And yet, she continues to respond and cry out to God in faith and hope – faith that he has power to bring life and hope in his good and perfect will. God has done something infinitely greater for us than even Elisha raising this boy from the dead. He has brought about spiritual resurrection and renewal in our lives. Elisha lays down his own living body on the dead boy, covering death with life. So too does Christ cover our dead, sinful selves with his life-giving presence.

Mission

We are called to live a life that says “thank you” to God, not out of obligation, but out of an outpouring of his life flowing through our own, individual life. When you believe in the life-giving presence of Christ, your identity is in him. We contribute to a culture of life, transforming the culture of death and broken dreams that seems to surround us. We serve others as Christ served us, bringing physical and spiritual life to the world.