

6/5/11

**Elisha Raised The Shunemmit's Son**  
**2Kings 4:8-37**

The prophet Elisha was inaugurated into his prophetic office as he saw Elijah going up to heaven in the whirlwind and as he was going to back across the Jordan, he performed his first miracle by parting the Jordan River.

The definition of a miracle is as follows: A supernatural act or acts or events of power, which would defy or go against our natural laws of the universe, as we know them, physical, biological or scientific. (active faith with active works) Horton

Elisha performed three more miracles after the parting of the Jordan.

1. The second miracle was the healing of the springs at Jericho. 2Kings 2:19-22
2. The third miracle was the judgment by a couple of bears mauling the 42 young men who mocked him. 2Kings. 2:23-25
3. The fourth miracle was the multiplication of oil for the destitute widow of one of the sons of the prophets to pay her debts and live on. 2Kings 4:1-7

The next two miracles of Elisha occur in view of the Shunemmite woman, laid out in three scenes:

- I. The kindness of the Shunemmite was rewarded by Elisha. vs. 8-17
  - II. The heartbreak of the Shunemmite drove her to Elisha. vs. 18-25a
  - III. The raising of the Shunemmite's son by Elisha. vs. 25b-37
- I. The kindness of the Shunemmite was rewarded by Elisha. vs. 8-17**
- A. The Shunammite was a benevolent woman to Elisha. vs. 8
    1. The occasion was a normal day in the life of Elisha the prophet, "Now it happened one day that Elisha went to Shunem." vs. 8a
      - a. The life of Elisha and other men of God were directed by God, they did not just happen by coincidence.
      - b. The city of Shunem was about 5 miles south of Mount Tabor, near the city of Zezreel, which was about 15 miles south-east from Carmel.
        - \* So this was the same vicinity of the Northern kingdom where Elijah ministered.
    2. The encounter was through the woman's hospitable, "where there was a notable woman, and she persuaded him to eat some food." vs. 8ab-c

- a. The indication of notable “gadowl”, simple means great, with the idea of being distinguished.  
\* Implying she was a woman of wealth and means.
- b. The kindness of the woman led her to compel Elisha to eat, “and she persuaded him to eat some food.” vs. 1d
  - 1) The word persuaded “chazaq”, means to be strong and firm, urging him.
  - 2) Not ordering him, but simply being persistent in the invitation, so as not to be denied.
- c. The kindness turned into a friendship, “So it was, as often as he passed by, he would turn in there to eat some food.” vs. 8e
- 3. The woman wanted to do more for Elisha. vs. 9-10
  - a. She took the concern to her husband, recognizing his heaship, “And she said to her husband.” vs. 9a
  - b. She presented her concern, “Look now, I know that this is a holy man of God, who passes by us regularly.” vs. 9b-c
    - 1) The Shunemmite knew Elisha was a holy **man of God**, the key phrase in the story, appearing eight time

- total. vs. 9, 16, 21, 22, 25 (2x’s), 27 (2x’s)
  - 2) The Shunammite knew Elisha traveled regularly by their house performing his prophetic duties.
  - c. She made the request to her husband to provide lodging for Elisha, “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.” vs. 10
- B. The Shunemite was a content woman. vs. 11-13**
- 1. The prophet Elisha arrived at the lodging made for him, “And it happened one day that he came there, and he turned in to the upper room and lay down there.” vs. 11
    - a. This became the custom of Elisha.
    - b. This allowed him to rest in his long travels.
  - 2. The prophet Elisha desired to do something for the woman, in turn for the kindness of her and her husband. vs. 12
    - a. Elisha addressed his servant, “Then he said to Gehazi his servant, “Call this Shunammite woman.” When he

had called her, she stood before him.”  
vs. 12

**b.** Elisha gave the specific word to say to the woman. vs. 13

- 1) The words were of appreciation,  
“And he said to him, “Say now to her, ‘Look, you have been concerned for us with all this care.’” vs. 13a-b
- 2) The words were of reciprocal kindness, “What can I do for you?” vs. 13c
- 3) The words were not empty, “Do you want me to speak on your behalf to the king or to the commander of the army?”” vs. 13d

**c.** Elisha witnessed the woman’s satisfaction with who she was and what she had, “She answered, “I dwell among my own people.” vs. 13e-f

**C.** The Shunammite was a childless woman. vs. 14-17

1. The prophet Elisha ponder what could be done for her. vs. 14-15
  - a.** Elisha thought to himself aloud, “So he said, “What then is to be done for her?” And Gehazi answered, “Actually, she has no son, and her husband is old.” vs. 14

- 1) She must have been much younger than her husband.

- 2) He must have been unable to produce a child.

**b.** Elisha commanded his servant, “So he said, “Call her.” When he had called her, she stood in the doorway.” vs. 15

- 1) The conversation of Elisha and Gehazi was directed by God.

- 2) God desired to bless the woman, knowing her deepest want and needs, a child of her own!

**2.** The prophet Elisha prophesied to the woman. vs. 16-17

- a.** She would bear a son, “Then he said, “About this time next year you shall embrace a son.” vs. 16a-b

- b.** She cautioned Elisha about teasing or joking with her, “And she said, “No, my lord, Man of God, do not lie to your maidservant!”” vs. 16c-e

- c.** She bore a son, as Elisha said, “But the woman conceived, and bore a son when the appointed time had come, of which Elisha had told her.” vs. 17

\* This is the fifth miracle of Elisha!

### **Illustration**

We have seen many such miracles among many of you through the years.

1. Women have conceived a child through prayer and anointing with oil, after all the efforts by doctors failed.
2. Children born perfectly healthy, after doctors recommended that they be aborted, due to some abnormality in the tests made.
3. Refusing to abort one three children to insure the survival of the other two, but God brought forth all three children.

### **Application**

1. The kindness that is done for the people of God will not go unnoticed by God.
  - a. The motive that God honors is that it is done in, by and for the agape love of God, never what we do. 1Cor. 4:5
  - b. The responsibility is of all believer, not just to the well off, but according to our ability.
    - \* “And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same.” Lk. 6:33
  - c. This was a requirement for widows seeking help from the church.
    - \* “well reported for good works: if she has brought up children, if she has lodged strangers, if she has washed the saints’ feet, if she has relieved the afflicted, if she has diligently followed every good work.” 1Tim. 5:10
  - d. The rich are exhorted and cautioned.

- \* “Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.” 1Tim. 6:17-19

2. The dividends that God pays to those who are benevolent and kind are great.
  - a. The very joy and satisfaction of helping someone in need.
  - b. The fact that you don’t want any recognition or acknowledgment.
  - c. The faithfulness of God to provide your needs always.
  - d. The wisdom God gives to you to make proper use of your money.
    - 1) “There is one who makes himself rich, yet has nothing; And one who makes himself poor, yet has great **riches**.” Prov. 13:7
    - 2) “Now godliness with contentment is great **gain**.” 1Tim. 6:6

*The kindness of the Shunammite was rewarded by Elisha with a son by the revelation of God!*

## II. The heartbreak of the Shunemmite drove her to Elisha. vs. 18-25a

### A. The Shunemmite's son died all of a sudden. vs. 18-21

1. The time period was after the child had grown, "And the child grew." vs. 18a
  - a. The lapse of time is not indicated.
    - 1) The woman had experience the miracle of conception.
    - 2) The woman had experienced that baby moving inside her.
    - 3) The woman had experienced the labor to birth that son.
    - 4) The woman had the privilege of knowing it would be a son.
  - b. The age of the son is not given.
    - 1) The woman had enjoyed caring for her infant son.
    - 2) The woman had seen him take his first steps.
    - 3) The woman had observed her son grow, develop and mature, as a young boy.
2. The child God gave her now died. vs. 18b-20
  - a. The child was with his father in the morning, "Now it happened one day that he went out to his father, to the reapers." vs. 18b-c

- b. The child complaint about a headache, "And he said to his father, "My head, my head!" vs. 19a-c
- c. The father ordered the child to be taken to his mother, "So he said to a servant, "Carry him to his mother." vs. 19d-e
- d. The child died at noon, "When he had taken him and brought him to his mother, he sat on her knees till noon, and then died." vs. 20
3. The woman left her dead son on Elisha's bed. vs. 21
  - a. She took her dead son up to Elisha's room, "And she went up and laid him on the bed of the man of God." vs. 21a
    - 1) She knew Elisha was a man of God.
    - 2) She knew God had given her the child.
  - b. She close the door, knowing he was dead, "She, shut the door upon him." vs. 21b
    - 1) The door symbolic of closing the lid on a coffin.
    - 2) Or rolling the stone on a sepulcher.
  - c. She went out in faith believing God could revive her son, "and went out." vs. 21c

- 1) Hebrews defines faith itself for us; it is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen...those that come to God, must believe.... Heb. 11:1, 6
  - 2) The woman is not hysterical.
  - 3) The woman is not emotional.
  - 4) The woman is calm and settled on what she needs to do.
- B.** The Shunammite immediately prepared go to Elisha. vs. 22-25
1. The woman is in complete control of herself. vs. 22
    - a. She acted like nothing was wrong and made a request of her husband, “Then she called to her husband, and said, “Please send me one of the young men and one of the donkeys.” vs. 22a-b
    - b. She gave her husband a general reason, “that I may run to the man of God and come back.” vs. 22c
  2. The husband questioned her about her going. vs. 23
    - a. He pointed out that it was not a holy day, “So he said, “Why are you going to him today? It is neither the New Moon nor the Sabbath.” vs. 23a-c

- b. She responded there was no problem, to appease his curiosity, “And she said, “It is well.” vs. 23d-e
3. The woman proceeded to go to Elisha. vs. 24-25
  - a. She made the preparations, “Then she saddled a donkey.” vs. 24a
  - b. She made the urgency clear, “and said to her servant, “Drive, and go forward; do not slacken the pace for me unless I tell you.” vs. 24b-e
  - c. She headed out to Carmel, “And so she departed, and went to the man of God at Mount Carmel.” vs. 25
    - \* A distance of about 15 miles north-west from Shunem.

### **Illustration**

How often God used tragic events in our lives to draw us closer to Him and to trust him for the outcome.

I was hit by a car on my Harley on Feb. 2, 2001, my right foot was severely torn up and my neck was broken, a c-2 fracture. By all medical rights, I should of died or at the very least been a quadriplegic, but God in His goodness intervened on my behalf.

### **Application**

1. The difficulties of life, as a single person are to draw you to God, to bring death to self.

- a. For the strength to resist temptations.
- b. For the strength to be steadfast in trials.
- c. For the wisdom to make the right decisions to be a good witness.
- d. For the transformation of you, more like Jesus, in preparation for your future husband or wife.

\* “But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same **image** from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.” 2Cor. 3:18

2. The difficulties of married life, are to equally draw us to God, which are a kind of death when you are going through them.

- a. Confidently going to God for unforgiveness that leads to bitterness by not giving in to our emotions and feelings, but obedience.
- b. Consistently seeking God knowledge, wisdom and guidance to be that godly husband or wife.
- c. Cautiously making decision to divorce our mates, even when we may have the Biblical allowance.

\* “I have been **crucified** with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.” Gal. 2:20

- 3. The key is not procrastinating or waste time and to be discrete about the difficulties or problems.
  - a. Like the woman, closing the door behind her, she was not allowing anyone to know the personal hurt, until she sought God.
  - b. Like the woman, not sharing the gravity of the situation to her husband, until she heard from God in faith.
  - c. This does not mean that we keep things from each other, as husbands and wives, but that there are times when God wants us to go to Him alone and before anyone else.
    - \* “I love those who love me, And those who **seek** me diligently will find me.” Prov. 8:17

*The heartbreak of the Shunemmite drove her to Elisha, in desperation for God!*

### III. The raising of the Shunemmite’s son by Elisha. vs. 25b-37

- A. The arrival of the Shunammite woman. vs. 25-27
  - 1. The woman was notice by Elisha, as she arrived at Carmel, “So it was, when the man of God saw her afar off, that he said to his servant Gehazi, “Look, the Shunammite woman!” vs. 25
    - a. The prophet Elisha was unaware of her tragedy.

- b. The prophet Elisha, simply pointed her out to Gehazi, his servant.
- 2. The prophet Elisha sent Gahazi to greet the woman. vs. 26
  - a. He was to enquire about the state of her family, “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?’” vs. 26a-e
    - \* She was trusting in God.
  - b. She responded in the affirmative, “And she answered, “It is well.” vs. 26f-g
- 3. The woman demonstrated her brokenness before Elisha. vs. 27
  - a. The woman clung to the Elisha’s feet, “Now when she came to the man of God at the hill, she caught him by the feet.” vs. 27a-b
    - \* She knew he was the mouthpiece of God regarding her son!
  - b. Gahazi attempted to restrain her, “but Gehazi came near to push her away.” vs. 27c
    - \* Attempting to protect Elisha!
  - c. Elisha defended her, “But the man of God said, “Let her alone; for her soul is in deep distress.” vs. 27d-f
    - \* The phrase deep distress “marar” means distraught in grief.

- d. Elisha revealed God had kept the matter from him, “and the LORD has hidden it from me, and has not told me.” vs. 27g-h
  - 1) The prophet Elisha was surprised that God had concealed event from him.
  - 2) We usually are surprised if God reveals something to us!
- B. The complaint of the Shunammite woman. vs. 28-31
  - 1. The woman confronted Elisha, pouring her heart out. vs. 28
    - a. She asked him, if she had been the one to ask him for a son, “So she said, “Did I ask a son of my lord?” vs. 28a-b
    - b. She reminded him of her words of her reluctance to believe his promise, “Did I not say, ‘Do not deceive me’?” vs. 28c-d
  - 2. The prophet Elisha immediately commanded Gahazi to go to the child. vs. 29
    - a. He was to take Elisha’s staff, “Then he said to Gehazi, “Get yourself ready, and take my staff in your hand.” vs. 29a-b
    - b. He was not to allow anyone to delay him on his way. “If you meet anyone,



do not greet him; and if anyone greets you, do not answer him.” vs. 29c-f

- c. He was used the staff on the child, “but lay my staff on the face of the child.” vs. 29g

- 3. The woman would not go to the child without Elisha. vs. 30

- a. She swore by an oath, “And the mother of the child said, “As the LORD lives, and as your soul lives, I will not leave you.” vs. 30a-d

- b. They went together, “So he arose and followed her.” vs. 30e

- 4. The efforts of Gehazi failed to revive the child. vs. 31

- a. He witnessed no sign of life in the child, “Now Gehazi went on ahead of them, and laid the staff on the face of the child; but there was neither voice nor hearing.” vs. 31a-c

- b. He started back and met Elisha and gave him the bad news, “Therefore he went back to meet him, and told him, saying, “The child has not awakened.” vs. 31d-g

### C. The confident faith of the Shunammite woman. vs. 32-37

- 1. The arrival of all three to the house. vs. 32-33

- a. Elisha entered the room, “When Elisha came into the house, there was the child, lying dead on his bed.” vs. 32

- b. Elisha excluded the two from entering, “He went in therefore, shut the door behind the two of them, and prayed to the LORD.” vs. 33

- 2. The procedure Elisha went through to raise the child. vs. 34-35

- a. Elisha prostrated himself on top of the child, “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.” vs. 34a-e

- b. The result was encouraging “and the flesh of the child became warm.” vs. 34f

- c. Elisha got off the child and paced the room, “He returned and walked back and forth in the house.” vs. 35a

- d. Elisha repeated the same process, “and again went up and stretched himself out on him; then the child sneezed seven times, and the child opened his eyes.” vs. 35b-d

- 1) The miracle is much like Elijah’s in the raising of the widow’s son of Zerahath, the similarities of the

procedure and both were in their upper rooms. 1Kings 17:17-21

- 2) The contrast are that the prophet Elijah demonstrated the power of God to reveal Himself to convert the Gentile woman, while the prophet Elisha demonstrated the promises of God to be true to comfort his child.
3. The prophet Elisha presented the dead son alive. vs. 36-37
  - a. Elisha summoned Gahazi, “And he called Gehazi and said, “Call this Shunammite woman.” vs. 36a-b
  - b. Elisha presented her son, “So he called her. And when she came in to him, he said, “Pick up your son.” vs. 36c-f
  - c. Elisha was acknowledged to be “A man of God” by the Shunammite, worshipping God, not Elisha, “So she went in, fell at his feet, and bowed to the ground.” vs. 37a-c
  - d. The woman left with her son, “then she picked up her son and went out.” vs. 37d
    - 1) This is the sixth miracle of Elisha!
    - 2) Women received their dead raised to life again.” Heb. 11:35a

Last stages of cancer healed by God’s hand.

1. Wendi Hanagraph, had severe stages of cancer in her blood and bones, God touched her and went on to have another baby.
2. Ammi Kenz had a very large cancer growth that covered all of her torso area and God in His mercy touched her.

### **Application**

1. Your broken-heartedness may be over a wayward son or daughter.
  - a. You must warn them constantly and remind them of God’s forgiving grace.
  - b. You must pray fervently for them.
  - c. You must trust God, knowing that He will do everything to reach them.
    - \* God is not willing that any perish, but that all come to repentance. 2Pet. 3:9d
2. Your broken-heartedness may be over an unfaithful spouse.
  - a. You must go to God and see what He would have you to do, even though you may have the Biblical grounds of adultery for divorce.
  - b. You must pray in faith that the will of God be done, not yours.
  - c. You must trust in faith for the grace and love of God is more than sufficient for his will.
    - \* Jesus taught His disciples to pray, “Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” Matt. 6:10b

### **Illustration**

- 3.** Your broken-heartedness may be over the loss of a love one.
- a.** You need to understand that God does not mind your grieving, it is normal, as you miss them.
  - b.** You need to know if they were a Christian, they are with the Lord, they no longer have to suffer or be dealing with illness.
  - c.** You need to obey the word of God and not be driven by your emotions that will cause you to be a mess.
- \* “If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. “By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples. “As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. “If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love. “These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and **that your joy may be full.**” Jn. 15:7-11

*The raising of the Shunemmite’s son by Elisha resulted in the exaltation of God!*

### **Conclusion**

Two miracles of Elisha occurred in view of the Shunemmite woman, laid out in three scenes:

- I.** The kindness of the Shunammite was rewarded by Elisha with a son by the revelation of God!
- II.** The heartbreak of the Shunammite drove her to Elisha in desperation for God!
- III.** The raising of the Shunemmite’s son by Elisha resulted in the exaltation of God!