

*****principles of honor & reward*****

I. A Woman of Material Substance With Spiritual Wealth (8-9)

A. She was a big fish in a little pond (8a) - “One day Elisha went on to Shunem {a smaller city}, where a wealthy woman lived...”

B. She had a big heart and an open hand (8b) - “...who urged him to eat some food. So whenever he passed that way, he would turn in there to eat food.”

C. She practiced spiritual insight and common sense (9-10) - “And she said to her husband, “Behold now, I know that this is a holy man of God who is continually passing our way. 10 Let us make a small room on the roof with walls and put there for him a bed, a table, a chair, and a lamp, so that whenever he comes to us, he can go in there.”

“The measure of a life, after all, is not its duration, but its donation.” - Corrie ten-Boom

“I do not believe one can settle how much we ought to give. I am afraid the only safe rule is to give more than we can spare.” - C.S. Lewis

II. A Man of Limited Substance With A Grateful Heart (11-16)

A. Highly esteem the benefit of rest (11) - “One day he came there, and he turned into the chamber and rested there. 12 And he said to Gehazi his servant, “Call this Shunammite.” When he had called her, she stood before him.”

“Carnal Christians crave works; yet amid many labors they are unable to maintain calm in their spirit. They cannot fulfill God's orders quietly as can the spiritual believers...their hearts are governed by outward matters. Being “distracted with much serving” is the characteristic of the work of any soulish believer. They have not yet entered the rest of God.” - Watchman Nee

B. Make yourself available to do what you can for others (13) - “And he said to him, “Say now to her, ‘See, you have taken all this trouble for us; what is to be done for you? Would you have a word spoken on your behalf to the king or to the commander of the army?’” She answered, “I dwell among my own people.”

C. If you cannot bless others materially, serve in them spiritually (14-16a) - “And he said, “What then is to be done for her?” Gehazi answered, “Well, she has no son, and her husband is old.” 15 He said, “Call her.” And when he had called her, she stood in the doorway. 16 And he said, “At this season, about this time next year, you shall embrace a son.”

III. A Rewarded Woman With An Unexpected Gift (16b-17)

A. Her deepest desire touched her deepest doubts (16b) - “And she said, “No, my lord, O man of God; do not lie to your servant.”

B. Elisha’s greatest gift brought her greatest joy (17) - “But the woman conceived, and she bore a son about that time the following spring, as Elisha had said to her.”