

## I. KINGDOMS AND SYSTEMS

*Living from above is a biblical way of describing a believer who lives from the reality of their union with Christ rather than being governed by the world's way of thinking. It means drawing your identity, perspective, wisdom, peace, and strength from God's kingdom instead of merely reacting to earthly circumstances.*

### A. Review from Last Session

#### 1. The Shunammite woman:

- **2 Kings 4:8–37**

**KJV** “And it fell on a day, that Elisha passed to Shunem, where was a great woman; and she constrained him to eat bread. And so it was, that as oft as he passed by, he turned in thither to eat bread. And she said unto her husband, ‘Behold now, I perceive that this is an holy man of God, which passeth by us continually. Let us make a little chamber, I pray thee, on the wall; and let us set for him there a bed, and a table, and a stool, and a candlestick: and it shall be, when he cometh to us, that he shall turn in thither.’ And it fell on a day, that he came thither, and **he turned into the chamber, and lay there.** And he said to Gehazi his servant, ‘Call this Shunammite’. And when he had called her, she stood before him. And he said unto him, ‘Say now unto her, “Behold, thou hast been careful for us with all this care; what is to be done for thee? Wouldest thou be spoken for to the king, or to the captain of the host?”’ And she answered, ‘I dwell among mine own people’. And he said, ‘What then is to be done for her?’ And Gehazi answered, ‘Verily she hath no child, and her husband is old.’ And he said, ‘Call her’. And when he had called her, she stood in the door. And he said, ‘About this season, according to the time of life, thou shalt embrace a son.’ And she said, ‘Nay, my lord, thou man of God, do not lie unto thine handmaid.’ And the woman conceived, and bare a son at that season that Elisha had said unto her, according to the time of life.”

- a. She honored the prophet.
  - By honoring him, she was honoring the word and Spirit
- b. She made provision for him.
- c. She made a dwelling place for him (abiding).
- d. She prospered.
  - Lack left (childless to child)
  - Protection and healing
  - Direction
  - All protected and restored

## II. SESSION 2

### A. Last Week:

1. We focused on the Shunamite woman making room for the prophet, which is a type and shadow of us making room for God / His Word / prayer / church.
2. God meets us in the room we make for Him!

### B. Additional Observation:

#### 1. 2 Kings 4:8

**KJV** "And it fell on a day, that **Elisha passed to Shunem**, where was a great woman; and she constrained him to eat bread. And so it was, that as oft as he passed by, he turned in thither to eat bread."

- a. Many translations: "*he went*".

2. It is likely that the prophet was **led** to pass through Shunem.

3. Could it be that Elisha passing by was an intentional, *defining* moment in the life of this woman?

- a. She could perceive it.
- b. She could respond to it.
- c. OR she could ignore it.

### C. Defining Moments

1. A **defining moment** is an event or experience that has a major impact on a person's life, or future direction. It's a moment that helps shape who someone becomes.

a. God operates through defining moments.

b. He sets us up through divine invitation.

c. **Psalm 27:8**

**ESV** "You have said, 'Seek my face.' My heart says to you, 'Your face, LORD, do I seek'."

**Paraphrase:** "I heard your voice in my heart say, 'Come, seek my face;' my inner being responded, 'Lord, I'm seeking your face with all my heart'."

2. Throughout scripture, the greatest things occurred when people came to Jesus. There is something about taking initiative to come / to respond to what is available.

a. **Mark 3:7-8**

**NKJV** "But Jesus withdrew with His disciples to the sea. And a **great multitude from Galilee followed** Him, and from Judea and Jerusalem and Idumea and beyond the Jordan; and those from Tyre and Sidon, a great multitude, when they heard how many things He was doing, **came to Him.**"

b. **Mark 3:10**

**NKJV** "For He healed many, so that as many as had afflictions pressed about Him to touch Him. And the unclean spirits, whenever they saw Him, fell down before Him and cried out, saying, 'You are the Son of God.'"

c. They would not have received if they had not come!

- They heard.

- They came.

- Hearing is the *invitation*.

#### D. The Great Supper

##### 1. Luke 14:16-24

**NKJV** “Then He said to him, ‘A certain man gave a great supper and invited many, and sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, “Come, for all things are now ready.” But they all with one *accord* began to make excuses. The first said to him, “I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused.” And another said, “I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused.” Still another said, “I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.” So that servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house, being angry, said to his servant, “Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here *the* poor and *the* maimed and *the* lame and *the* blind.” And the servant said, “Master, it is done as you commanded, and still there is room.” Then the master said to the servant, “Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel *them* to come in, that my house may be filled. **For I say to you that none of those men who were invited shall taste my supper.**””

**Paraphrase:** “...I say to you all, no one who receives an invitation to feast with me and makes excuses will ever enjoy my supper...”

2. There is a spiritual principle here: Whenever you are “invited” into spiritual things, to refuse the invitation is to be forbidden to eat.
  - a. The basic call (invitation) to salvation.
  - b. The call (invitation) to come up higher.
  - c. The Shunamite woman saw the coming of the prophet as an invitation to a higher way of living. No doubt she was glad that she responded. If she had not responded:
    - She would have never had a son.
    - It is possible that she and her husband would have died in famine.
    - If they had survived the famine, they likely would have been broke, losing everything.
  - d. It pays to RSVP (meaning: “please respond”)

3. This spiritual principle reminds us that is dangerous not to show up when the Lord has sent His invitation.
  - a. When you refuse the invitation to salvation you could die without Him (lost).
  - b. When you refuse to come up higher in your experience with God, you are forfeiting what is on His table—only GREAT things are served on His table.
  - c. Whenever He is inviting you to come, something grand has been provided with your name on it.
  
4. Don't "neglect".
  - a. **Hebrews 2:1-3**  
**NKJV** "Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, how shall we **escape if we neglect** so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard *Him*."
 

**NIV** "Neglect" = "Ignore"

**Other Translations:** "Neglect" = "Refuse"
  - b. To neglect is to miss what God has prepared.
  - c. How shall we escape if we miss what God has prepared in the "Great Supper"?
  
5. Those who made excuses to not attend the supper missed what God had prepared for them.
  - a. They missed out, not because they weren't invited, but because they neglected the invitation.
  - b. How many things have WE missed because we didn't RSVP to His leadings / invitations?

**E. Felix and Drucilla**

**1. Acts 24:25**

**NKJV** “Now as he reasoned about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and answered, ‘Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you.’”

- a. They never came back. There is no record that they ever called Paul back to further explain.
- b. There was never a more “convenient” time, as they said.

**2. NOW is the time.**

a. **2 Corinthians 6:2**

**NKJV** “For He says: ‘In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you.’ Behold, now *is* the accepted time; behold, now *is* the day of salvation.”

**III. Closing**

- The time for responding is when the invitation is received.
  - This includes salvation.
  - This includes any leading of God to come closer to Him.
- Any response, other than “YES”, is the wrong response.
- Every time we say “NO” to His leadings, we are in danger of developing hardness of heart.