

7-11-2010, COTR Texarkana

Title: Miracles and Blessings

Purpose: Provoke people to imitate the spiritual practices of the Shunammite woman so we can be in position for miracles and blessings.

Spiritual Truth: Kingdom minded people walk in faith and obedience. Miracles and blessings follow.

Text: 2 Kings 4:1-37, 8:1-6

Topic: Miracles, Kingdom, Obedience, Faith

Miracles and Blessings

I. Introduction

A. Fun at the fireworks stand

1. I found out that the crowd after church is different from the crowd at midnight.
2. My son had a policy against backpacks and big purses inside the tent to prevent theft. I saw three different responses.
 - a. One lady had 5 kids and a decoy husband stealing fireworks that cost a dollar.
 - b. Another lady put her bag on the table and said, "Keep this for me please".
 - c. Another lady came in with a bag and we reminded her of the policy. She put her bag in the car, filled her basket with fireworks and got offended as she walked around and left her fireworks on the counter. I think she thought she was picked on because of her dress, looks, gender or race. Our intent was not to offend or hurt her but we did.
3. The offended lady taught me a lesson about church life. Sometimes things will happen that will hurt or offend people. It may be done on purpose or the person may not even realize it.
4. If you get hurt or offended in church I hope you'll see situations like this as a trap of satan to get you to leave your fireworks and go out hurt or mad.
5. I hope you'll live by our "Values and Standards" when offense comes.
 - a. Page 6: The church should be racially and culturally diverse...i.e. we are different but we all love Jesus and try to live by the Bible.
 - b. Page 14: Protect the unity of the church.
 - c. Resolve our differences with other Christians according to the Bible.
 - d. Walk in love toward all people, especially believers.
6. I'll never work a fireworks stand again. I worked 53 hours in 4 days.

B. Today

1. I will tell you the story about a woman from 2 Kings 4.
 - a. She couldn't have children but God blessed her with a child in her old age.
 - b. She experienced a miracle when her son died and God raised him back to life.
 - c. She left her property and business because of a famine but God gave her property back and 7 years of income, too.
2. There are two questions I want to ask:
 - a. Why was she so blessed? Was she just lucky or was it something she did?
 - b. What spiritual principles can I apply to my life to find God's favor like she did?

C. Title: Miracles and Blessings

D. Purpose: Provoke people to imitate the spiritual practices of the Shunammite woman so we can be in position for miracles and blessings.

E. Spiritual Truth: Kingdom minded people walk in faith and obedience. Miracles and

blessings follow them.

II. The blessing of God on the Shunammite woman (condensed Scriptures)

A. A miracle

1. 2 Kings 4:14-17 (ESV)

¹⁴ ...**she has no son, and her husband is old.** ...¹⁶ And he (Elisha) said, "At this season, about this time next year, you shall embrace a son." ...¹⁷ **the woman conceived, and she bore a son...**

2. She couldn't have children but God blessed her with a child in her old age.

B. Another miracle

1. 2 Kings 4:32-37 (ESV)

³² When Elisha came into the house, **he saw the child lying dead on his bed.** ³³ So he went in...and prayed to the Lord... ³⁵ **The child sneezed seven times, and the child opened his eyes.**

2. She experienced a miracle when her son died and God raised him back to life.

C. Protection, provision and favor

1. 2 Kings 8:1-6 (ESV)

¹ Now Elisha had said to the woman ...**"Arise, and depart with your household, ...for the Lord has called for a famine..."** ³ And at the end of the seven years...she went to appeal to the king for her house and her land...⁶ ...So the king...said, **"Restore all that was hers, together with all the produce of the fields from the day that she left the land until now."**

2. She left her property and business because of a famine and God gave her property back and 7 years of income, too.

D. There are two questions I want to ask:

1. Why was she so blessed? Was she just lucky or was it something she did?
2. What spiritual principles can I apply to my life to find God's favor?

III. Reasons for her blessing

A. She put God's Kingdom before herself

1. 2 Kings 4:8-10 (ESV) (Prior to the miracle birth of a son)

2. ⁸ One day Elisha went on to Shunem, where a wealthy woman lived, who urged him to eat some food. So whenever he passed that way, he would turn in there to eat food. ⁹ And she said to her husband, "Behold now, **I know that this is a holy man of God** ...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..."

3. She provided the man of God food and a place to stay. Why did she do this? She didn't feel sorry for him. She wasn't trying to make money. She wasn't swapping favors. She wasn't seeking personal gain but to advance the KOG.

4. She invested time, spent money and made a sacrifice to advance God's Kingdom. God saw her Kingdom priority and blessed her.

5. Matthew 6:33 (ESV) [Context: Jesus told us spiritual things are more important]

³³ **But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.**

6. This isn't the only time in the Bible in which God promises extraordinary reward when we put the needs of his Kingdom before our own.

a. Solomon: God asked in a dream, "What do you want me to do for you"...Solomon asked for wisdom to lead God's people. God said, "I'll give you riches and long life, too".

b. Peter: ‘We’ve left all to follow you’...Jesus promised a 100 fold blessing and eternal life.

7. The lesson for us is clear. If we put God’s Kingdom before ourselves He’ll bless us.

B. She had great faith

1. 2 Kings 4:18-35 (ESV) [Prior to the miracle that raised her son from the dead]

2. ¹⁸ When the child had grown, he went out one day to his father among the reapers.

¹⁹ And he said to his father, “Oh, my head, my head!” The father said to his servant, “Carry him to his mother.” ²⁰ And when he had lifted him and brought him to his mother, the child sat on her lap till noon, and then **he died**.

a. It’s believed he died from inflammation of the brain from sunstroke.

b. Life is filled with trouble. Sometimes we are devastated and helpless to do anything to change our situation.

c. But for Christians life is never hopeless because we have faith in God.

3. Verse 21 And **she went up and laid him on the bed of the man of God ...**²² Then she called to her husband and said, “Send me one of the servants and one of the donkeys, that I may quickly go to the man of God and come back again.” ²³ And he said, “Why will you go to him today? It is neither new moon nor Sabbath.” She said, **“All is well.” (It will be alright NLT) (It is alright NIV)....**²⁵ ...When the man of God saw her coming, he said to Gehazi his servant, “...²⁶ Run at once to meet her and say to her, ‘Is all well with you? Is all well with your husband? Is all well with the child?’ ” And she answered, **“All is well.”**

a. How could she say that? All was not well. Her son was dead. I’ll tell you how. She had faith that God could do the impossible and He did.

4. Mark 9:22-23 (ESV) [Jesus to a dad of a suicidal child controlled by demons]

²² And it has often cast him into fire and into water, to destroy him. But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.” ²³ And Jesus said to him, **“If you can?! All things are possible for one who believes.”**

a. Mark 9:23 (The Message)

²³ Jesus said, **“If? There are no ‘ifs’ among believers. Anything can happen**

C. She was obedient to the man of God

1. 2 Kings 8:1-6 (ESV) (Prior to the famine and loss of her property)

2. ¹ Now Elisha said ...“Arise, and depart with your household... for the Lord has called for a famine, and it will come upon the land for seven years.” ² **So the woman arose and did according to the word of the man of God.** She went with her household and sojourned in the land of the Philistines seven years.

a. What would have happened if she would have ignored Elisha’s word?

b. She had a choice to make. By doing what God said, she put responsibility for her future into God’s hands. As a result of her obedience she was blessed.

3. Verse 3 and at the end of the seven years...she went to appeal to the king for her house and her land. ⁶ ...So the king appointed an official for her, saying, **“Restore all that was hers, together with all the produce of the fields from the day that she left the land until now.”**

4. She got a triple blessing. Protection, provision and a return land and lost wages.

5. The Bible teaches us that there is a blessing in submission and obedience to God, His Word and delegated spiritual authority.

6. Deuteronomy 28:2 (ESV)

² And **all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you obey the**

voice of the Lord your God.

IV. Conclusion

A. When we began I asked you a question:

1. Why was she so blessed? Why did she have miracles, protection and provision?

B. The answer is simple.

1. She put God's Kingdom before herself.

2. She had great faith.

3. She was obedient to the man of God.

C. It worked for her. It will work for us.

V. Response

A. Prayer: Are there impossible circumstances facing you? Are you under financial pressure?

B. Commitment: Follow the example of the Shunammite woman for miracles, protection and provision.

C. Souls

D. Get involved or get more info about COTR...Connect