



Faith

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Focus



*for
Teens*

*Sunday
School
Services*

Zion Assembly Church of God
Writer: Miguel A. Garcia

“Elisha’s Exploits”

Elisha’s Exploits, Part Two – May 6, 2018

Lesson – “Multiplied Oil”

Scriptures – Philippians 4:19; Matthew 7:7;
2 Kings 4:1-7

Introduction to lesson

Elisha was a great prophet in Israel that spoke the word of God with boldness and unfeigned faith. He took over the office of prophet after Elijah was taken up to heaven. Through Elijah, God did great wonders, and Elisha was not any different. Elisha had a “double portion” of Elijah’s spirit. Through Elisha, we read in 2 Kings 4 that God wanted to show his power in the situation of a local widow woman, a widow “of the sons of the prophets.” She came to Elisha asking for help; her problem was that her husband had left a debt she could not repay. The people she now owed were asking for their money, even threatening to take her two sons and make them “slaves” as payment for what she owed. This was an awful situation, right? The bible tells us, “Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you” (Matthew 7:7). If we do not ask, then we cannot expect to receive from the Lord. God is interested in what seems like the most insignificant things in our lives. God is not absent from our everyday concerns, and he is willing to help if we seek, ask, and knock. The prophet asked the woman if she had anything to help her situation. Her response was, “Nothing at all, except a small jar of olive oil.” Elisha told her to borrow a lot of jars, instructed her to lock herself and her sons in the house to prepare for the provision from the Lord, and told her to start pouring into the empty jars. When she did this, all the jars were filled and her needs were met. God is interested in what happens to his children. Place your trust in God’s ability to “provide our every need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:19).

Key Verse: “But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:19).

Questions to Discuss:

- ✚ Explain the women’s situation?
- ✚ How would you feel in her shoes? Would your faith stand?
- ✚ Do you know you can go to God for anything?
- ✚ What can you take away from this story that will help you?
- ✚ Can God use any object or only certain ones?

Think about it: Our God can do anything. He is more than able to supply all of our needs. In fact, he can go above and beyond our wildest imaginations. Listen to Paul the apostle: “He is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think...” (Ephesians 3:20). So don’t limit God in your life. Go to him first in every situation, knowing that he is able and believing that he will supply our needs.

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“Elisha’s Exploits”

Elisha’s Exploits, Part Two – May 13, 2018

Lesson – “The Shunammite Woman”

Scriptures – 2 Kings 4:8-17; Luke 6:38

Introduction to lesson

When you do something for someone, is there a particular motive you have? Are you expecting something in return? The “what’s in it for me” train is filled with lots of people – they are not givers, but takers. Elisha met a woman that had nothing in mind but to simply bless the “man of God.” Our motive is the true desire behind our words and actions. Motive is of great importance to God. You see, God knows us “...For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O Lord, thou knowest it altogether (Psalm 139:4). Not much is said of the woman (2 Kings 4:8-37), but she was from Shunem and was “great,” which probably meant she was of influence in the town. She showed great hospitality and kindness to the man of God, even to the point of preparing a special room where he could stay when he came that way. The prophet asked if there was anything he could do for her to repay her and her husband’s kindness. Elisha’s servant Gehazi told him that they did not have any children, and her husband was old. Because the intentions of this woman and her husband were pure, simply looking after Elisha and his needs, the Lord gave her a son a year later. “And the woman conceived, and bare a son at that season that Elisha had said unto her, according to the time of life” (2 Kings 4:17). When we do things with pure motives like this woman and her husband, the Lord will reward openly. “Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into you bosom” (Luke 6:38). Make sure you give not expecting anything in return, but give simply to honor God and to bless others.

Key Verse: “Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts” (Psalms 139:23).

Questions to Discuss:

- + What can you understand about this woman’s intentions?
- + Do you think this act pleased God?
- + Do you think this woman was content with what she had?
- + What can you take away from this story that will help you?
- + How can we be more pure in our motives towards others?

Think about it: The gracious woman gave with right motives, and in return, God gave her a miracle she wasn’t even looking for, something beyond her imagination. You see, there is a principle in God’s word that says, “For with the same measure that ye mete whital it shall be measured to you again” (Luke 6:38). We cannot fool God; he knows our thoughts and our heart. When we minister to the needs of others, not thinking of ourselves, God will surely reward accordingly.

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“ELISHA’S EXPLOITS”

Elisha’s Exploits, Part Two – May 20, 2018

Lesson – “The Dead Is Raised”

Scriptures – 2 Kings 4:18-37; Jn. 10:17-18

Introduction to lesson

Last week, we saw how God rewarded a Shunammite woman for her kindness to the prophet Elisha. She was a faithful woman who gave with pure motives, desiring only to serve the prophet whom she acknowledged as “a holy man of God.” Because she gave freely, the Lord gave her a son even though her husband was old. But after her faithfulness was rewarded, her faith would later be tested. In 2 Kings 4:18-37, one day her son went out to his father where the workers were reaping the fields. The boy complained of a headache to his father, who then sent him back home to rest. His mother cared for him until noon, but the boy died in her lap. Obviously, the mother was saddened by this sudden loss. But there is something that shines brightly in the story – her faith that God could bring her son back to life. She ran to see the man of God, and when he asked if her family was alright, she said, “It is well.” She was a woman of great deeds, but more importantly of great faith. Elisha sent his servant, Gehazi, to take his staff and lay it on the child until he got there. After the prophet arrived, he prayed to the Lord, and then he laid himself across the child, eye-to-eye and nose-to-nose. Miraculously, the child was brought back to life. Clearly, God has the power to give and take life (Jn. 10:17-18). Moreover, Christ proved his power over death and the grave when he resurrected from the dead. The Lord can do infinitely more than we can imagine when we believe him for the impossible. When we pray, we should remember that we are calling on the Lord who has all power in heaven and in earth (Mt. 28: 18).

Key Verse: “In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed” (1 Cor. 15:52).

Questions to Discuss:

- ✚ According to Scripture, what was the woman’s attitude regarding the death of her child?
- ✚ Was the boy dead or faking it? What does that tell you about the power of God?
- ✚ How should we approach God with what seems like impossible circumstances?
- ✚ Who is the only one that has power over the grave and death?

Think about it: No doubt, the greatest power of God we can experience is the power of salvation through Christ Jesus. He gives us eternal life. Our natural bodies will die one day. The Shunammites son lived the rest of his life, and then he died again. You see, natural life is not our goal in Christ – “He gives eternal life” (John 17:2; 3:16). The good news of the gospel is one day we will be raised in immortality and never see death, but we’ll live eternally! (1 Co. 15:50-57).

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“ELISHA’S EXPLOITS”

Elisha’s Exploits, Part Two – May 27, 2018

Lesson – “Healing of the Pottage”

Scriptures – 2 Kings 4:38-41; 2 Chronicles 16:9

Introduction to lesson

In today’s lesson, we read about the sons of the prophets who lived through some tough times. Years earlier, there was famine – lack of food – in the land of Israel during Elijah’s ministry. At that time, the land experienced 3½ years of drought (1 Kings 17:1; James 5:17). God used famine and drought as a way to judge and humble his people (2 Chr. 6:26-31; 7:12-14). Now, during Elisha’s ministry, we again see famine in the land. Elisha came to visit the sons of the prophets in their time of distress. God took this opportunity to intervene in a marvelous way. You see, time and time again, God shows up in situations where we are powerless, and he receives glory by demonstrating his power in our lives (2 Chr. 16:9). Elisha asked his servant to prepare a pottage (soup/stew) for the prophets. But because of the lack of food, someone went to the fields and gathered wild gourds that turned out to be poisonous. Without any knowledge, they added them to the pot. When the people ate it, they shouted, “There is death in the pot!” Instead of throwing it away, Elisha asked for meal (milled grain), and he put it in the pottage. Of course, there was no power in the actual meal, but it was the physical representation of God’s miraculous healing of the pottage. God had the power to heal the deadly pottage and to turn it into nourishment. In this way, he both provided for and protected them.

Key Verse: “But he said, Then bring meal. And he cast it into the pot; and he said, Pour out for the people, that they may eat. And there was no harm in the pot” (2 Kings 4:41).

Questions to Discuss:

- ✚ According to Scripture, what was the condition of the land?
- ✚ What was Elisha’s response to the need of the sons of the prophets?
- ✚ How do you see God’s hand moving in this story?
- ✚ Have you experienced a supernatural moving of God’s hand on your need?

Think about it: The sons of the prophets had to experience great faith in eating the “poisonous pottage.” They obviously had great confidence in Elisha’s relationship with God. It was an intimate and close relationship. No doubt, this miracle was significant in its timing. God showed the sons of the prophets that he would continue to take care of their needs even during a difficult time of famine. The Lord is faithful; he does not forget about us, and he will continue to supply our needs.

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