



Faith

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Focus



*for
Teens*

*Sunday
School
Services*

Zion Assembly Church of God
Writer: Trevor Graves

Elisha's Exploits

"Elisha's Exploits, Part 3" – June 3, 2018

Lesson – "God Is Able and Faithful"

Scriptures – 2 Kings 4:42-44

Introduction to lesson

Have you ever made a promise that you were unable to keep? This is likely to happen with people, but it will never happen with God. It is actually impossible for God to lie, and he is more than able to do whatever he says he will do. He is the all powerful Creator and Possessor of all things. Therefore, he is not limited in his ability and resources. Although we are limited, all things are possible with God. When he says he will do something, you can trust that he will somehow make it happen, no matter what the circumstances may look like. In today's lesson, we will see that God will always follow through with what he says he will do, even when it appears to be impossible.

Key Verse: "So he set it before them, and they did eat, and left thereof, according to the word of the Lord" (2 Kings 4:44).

Questions to Discuss:

- ✚ What did the man from Baalshalisha bring to Elisha? (v. 42)
- ✚ What is the meaning/significance of the word "firstfruits?" (v. 42)
- ✚ What did the prophet Elisha tell the man to do with the offering of food? (v. 42)
- ✚ Judging by the man's question, was his offering enough to feed the people? (v. 43)
- ✚ Despite the shortage of food, what did God say was going to happen? (v. 44)
- ✚ When the man from Baalshalisha gave to the people as Elisha told him to do, what happened? (v. 44)

Think about it:

During a time of famine, this man from Baalshalisha brought an offering of his firstfruits. The "firstfruits" was an offering to honor God and showed that he trusted God to supply his needs. Though it wasn't much, God had planned to take the small offering and multiply it to supply the needs of his people. God used the prophet Elisha to proclaim his Word, and then by a miracle, there was more than enough food to feed the 100 men. You see, God will take care of his people in miraculous ways. We just have to live by faith and obedience to his Word in order to experience his perfect plan for our lives. He is always faithful to perform what he has spoken, so don't ever doubt the promises of his Word. Even when we can't see how he's going to do it, and those around us don't understand how we can believe what we believe, we must keep our faith in the God who is able and always faithful to keep his Word!

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Elisha's Exploits

"Elisha's Exploits, Part 3" – June 10, 2018

Lesson – "God's Purpose for Miracles"

Scriptures – 2 Kings 5:1-15

Introduction to lesson

Have you ever been amazed from the news that someone has been healed of cancer? Or maybe, you've been wowed by the testimony of a broken marriage being restored or a drug addict being completely set free. It's certainly wonderful when God chooses to do something that goes beyond the ability of what we can do on our own. We will always marvel at miracles such as these, because we can never explain how they are made possible. Although we can't understand how miracles happen, we can see a trend in how people are affected by them throughout the Bible. Examining what happens after miracles take place can help us understand God's purpose for using miracles. In today's lesson, let's take a look at a special miracle that took place during the time Elisha was a prophet in Israel, and let's see if we can recognize why true miracles happen.

Key Verse: "And he returned to the man of God, he and all his company, and came, and stood before him: and he said, Behold, now I know that there is no God in all the earth, but in Israel: now therefore I pray thee, take a blessing of thy servant" (2 Kings 5:15).

Questions to Discuss:

- + Who was Naaman and what kind of sickness did he have? (v. 1)
- + Why did the king of Syria send Naaman to Israel? (v. 6)
- + When Naaman came to the house of Elisha, what message did Elisha send to him through a messenger? (v. 10)
- + Why was Naaman angry at Elisha's instructions? (vv. 11-12)
- + After listening to his servants, did Naaman obey or disobey the Word of God spoken by the prophet Elisha? (vv. 13-14)
- + What happens when people respond in faith and obedience to God's Word? (vv. 14-15)

Think about it:

Naaman was basically a war hero, who needed healing from a deadly disease. When he came to Elisha's house, Elisha did not even go out to meet him, but sent him a simple instruction to dip himself in the Jordan River seven times. This is not at all what Naaman had in mind. He thought Elisha would be present for the healing or at least he deserved to wash in a better river than the Jordan River. But the promise of healing was conditional. Naaman had to humble himself and do things God's way if he wanted his flesh to come back and be clean from the disease of leprosy. After he followed the Word of God spoken by Elisha, his flesh returned like the flesh of a little child. He then testified that Israel's God was the one true God. God still works the same way today. He uses miracles to prove his Word and to show how great he is. If we respond in faith and obedience to God's Word, he will do great things not only for the purpose of meeting our need, but also to reveal himself and the truth of his Word to others!

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Elisha's Exploits

"Elisha's Exploits, Part 3" – June 17, 2018

Lesson – "Trusting God for Miracles"

Scriptures – 2 Kings 6:1-7

Introduction to lesson

God is a miracle worker! There's not a problem too great for God to work out. This is a basic belief that we should all hold if we profess Jesus Christ to be our Lord and Savior. But how often do we exercise our faith when problems come up in our own lives? Do we look to God first, or do we call on him as a last resort? Since God is all-powerful, all-knowing, and in complete control, we should look to him continually to work things out according to his will. Also, we should expect great things to happen when we are dwelling in his presence daily and depending on his great ability. In today's lesson, we will see how God can and will do miracles in our daily lives when we are putting our faith in him.

Key Verse: "And the man of God said, Where fell it? And he showed him the place. And he cut down a stick, and cast it in thither; and the iron did swim" (2 Kings 6:6).

Questions to Discuss:

- ✦ The sons of the prophets needed a bigger place to live. What did they plan on doing to fix their situation? (vv. 1-2)
- ✦ Who went with the sons of the prophets? Where did they go? What did they do? (vv. 3-4)
- ✦ What problem came up while one of the prophets was cutting down a tree? (v. 5)
- ✦ Besides the fact that ax heads were very difficult to replace in those days, why was losing this particular ax head such a big deal? (v. 5)
- ✦ Why do you think Elisha cut down a stick and cast it in the river?
- ✦ When Elisha threw in the stick, what miracle took place? (v. 6)
- ✦ What did Elisha tell the man who had lost the ax head to do? (v. 7)

Think about it:

It must have been very disturbing for this prophet-in-training to have lost something very valuable that he had borrowed from someone else. But since he looked in the right direction for help, God miraculously defied the laws of nature and made the iron ax head come back to the surface and float on the water. Difficult situations pop up in our everyday lives. Things that we're not expecting interrupt our plans, and in those moments we may feel stressed, not knowing how we are going to fix our situation. In those times of frustration, we must learn to quickly call upon our Lord like the son of the prophet cried out to Elisha. As the prophet Elisha was right there in his time of need, so God is "a very present help in [our time of] trouble" (Ps. 46:1). He will still work miracles in our everyday lives if we will call upon him in faith. Exactly how he'll work things out, we do not know, but let us look to him in faith and receive his miracle-working power each and every day!

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Elisha's Exploits

"Elisha's Exploits, Part 3" – June 24, 2018

Lesson – "Let God Open Your Eyes"

Scriptures – 2 Kings 6:8-20

Introduction to lesson

Do you think you know a lot? If you could compare how much you do know with how much you don't know, which would be more? For Christians, it's comforting to know that God knows everything! We don't, but he does. He knows exactly what we are going to face each and every day. What's awesome too is that God will reveal what we need to know when we seek after him. The fact that God who knows everything communicates his great knowledge to his people is really a miracle if you think about it. We can actually know his absolute Truth and be enlightened to live in the peace of God that passes our human understanding no matter what happens in this life. In today's lesson, we will see how the all-knowing God kept his people from defeat by opening their eyes to his knowledge and perspective.

Key Verse: "And Elisha prayed, and said, Lord, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the Lord opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha" (2 Kings 6:17).

Questions to Discuss:

- ✦ Why was the Syrian king unable to accomplish his military plans against Israel? (vv. 8-10)
- ✦ Who did the king of Syria think was revealing his secret plans to the king of Israel? (vv. 11-12)
- ✦ What did the king of Syria plan to do once he found out Elisha was revealing his plans to the king of Israel? (vv. 13-14)
- ✦ What frightening sight did Elisha's servant see, and why was Elisha not afraid? (vv. 15-16)
- ✦ What did Elisha's servant see after God opened up his eyes? (v. 17)
- ✦ What happened to the Syrians who came to capture Elisha? (vv. 18-20)

Think about it:

It's awesome that God gives us the knowledge and understanding we need to be victorious! If God could reveal the hidden plans of the Syrian king to the prophet Elisha miles away, then God can show us the plans of Satan and his evil forces. If God can open the eyes of Elisha's servant to see the angel armies defending them from the Syrian troops, then God can open the eyes of our heart to see that "greater is he that is in [us], than he that is in the world" (1 Jn. 4:4). We just need to get into his word and let God reveal Satan's tactics to us, so that we will avoid falling into his traps. We just need to pray so we can see our circumstances through the eyes of faith rather than letting fear get the best of us. Just think; with God's insight, Elisha was able to lead an army of men into the hands of the king of Israel! If we are on God's side, then we have every reason to overcome the enemy and live victoriously in Christ. "If God be for us, who can be against us" (Ro. 8:31)?

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Elisha's Exploits

"Elisha's Exploits, Part 3" – July 1, 2018

Lesson – "Fervent Faith"

Scriptures – 2 Kings 13:14-19

Introduction to lesson

On a scale of 1 to 10, how would you rate your service to God? When you pray, do you pour out your heart expecting God to work according to his Word, or do you just pray because that's what you're supposed to do? When you read your Bible, do you listen to God speak and rejoice in his truth, or do you just read to say you've read? When you sing songs of praise, do you sincerely mean it, or does it just come from your lips? Going through the motions may look good on the outside, but it doesn't necessarily mean there is a real and faithful relationship with God taking place. If we are missing the mark in our service to God, how do you think that will affect the will of God in our lives? How might the church be affected? In today's lesson, we will see the effect of doing the right things the wrong way.

Key Verse: "And he said, Take the arrows. And he took them. And he said unto the king of Israel, smite upon the ground. And he smote thrice, and stayed" (2 Kings 13:18).

Questions to Discuss:

- ✚ When Elisha was very sick and approaching his death, what was King Joash's concern? (v.14)
- ✚ What did Elisha do once Joash had a bow and arrows in his hands? (v.15-16)
- ✚ What did shooting an arrow out of the window represent? (v.17)
- ✚ What did Elisha tell the king to do with the remaining arrows? (v.18)
- ✚ How many times did Joash smite the ground? (v.18)
- ✚ After Joash used the arrows to smite the ground, what happened as a result? (v.19)

Think about it:

Just before Elisha died, God used him one last time to test the faith of the king of Israel. King Joash was troubled about what might happen to his army after Elisha passed on. Would Syria finally defeat them with Elisha gone? As Joash took the bow and arrow in his hands, Elisha placed his hands on the King's hands to symbolize God's favor upon him. He had Joash to shoot an arrow eastward to represent the Lord's deliverance from Syria. Elisha then revealed God's plan to give a complete victory to Israel. Then Joash had to smite the ground with the remaining arrows. Evidently, Joash did not display faith in God's plan because Elisha was angry with him. God must have known that Joash didn't have his whole heart in what he was doing. He only smote the ground 3 times and stopped, therefore they would only smite Syria 3 times instead of having complete victory. This should show us that it's not just outward action that God wants, but first he wants us to have a heart of faith. God has victory for his church, but we must exercise real faith in his Word in order to experience his victory. First and foremost, we do this through prayer. We need to pray whole-heartedly to see God move! Don't be satisfied with just going through the motions of service to God. Let's cry out to him with fervent prayer and begin to serve with a greater zeal than we have ever known. Then we will see the God of Elisha move to bring about victory on top of victory!

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