

2 Kings Chapter 04 Verses 18-37 Bible Study

2Ki 4:18 ¶ "And when the child was grown, it fell on a day, that he went out to his father to the reapers. 19 And he said unto his father, My head, my head. And he said to a lad, Carry him to his mother. 20 And when he had taken him, and brought him to his mother, he sat on her knees till noon, and then died. 21 And she went up, and laid him on the bed of the man of God, and shut the door upon him, and went out. 22 And she called unto her husband, and said, Send me, I pray thee, one of the young men, and one of the asses, that I may run to the man of God, and come again. 23 And he said, Wherefore wilt thou go to him today? it is neither new moon, nor sabbath. And she said, It shall be well. 24 Then she saddled an ass, and said to her servant, Drive, and go forward; slack not thy riding for me, except I bid thee. 25 So she went and came unto the man of God to mount Carmel. And it came to pass, when the man of God saw her afar off, that he said to Gehazi his servant, Behold, yonder is that Shunammite: 26 Run now, I pray thee, to meet her, and say unto her, Is it well with thee? is it well with thy husband? is it well with the child? And she answered, It is well."

The child grows up enough to follow his father to the fields and tells his father my head, my head. He father has a lad carry him to his mother. The child sits in her lap until noon and then he dies. She lays the dead child on Elisha's bed and shuts the door upon him. This is figurative of putting her trust in God, because she lays him in the man of God's bed. She doesn't put him in his own bed, or her bed, but in the man of God's bed. How often do we put our trust in God and leave our troubles there in his will, and then go seeking the man of God, for us Jesus Christ, and saying **"it shall be well."** Think about this: she didn't have to hunt the man of God; she went directly to where she knew he was. We can go directly to where we know Jesus Christ is in the Holy Spirit power.

She calls her husband to send her a servant and an ass that she may go to the man of God. Notice, she does not tell her husband that the child is dead. This is why her husband asks; why? since it is not a holy day. This tells us that her husband at least had knowledge of the commandments of God, but we trust that he also had intimate knowledge of God. Her reply is **"it shall be well."** Since she says, **"it shall be well,"** this woman is acknowledging that things are not well, our son has died, but through steadfast faith in God, she can say **"it shall be well."**

She does not waste time doing anything else. She makes the necessary arrangements to get her to the man of God as quickly as possible. She rides in haste to Elisha, who sees her coming afar off. Elisha sends his servant to meet her and inquire if all is well, and she replies, **"It is well."** What great faith this woman is exercising, for it shows that she trusts in the living God, else she could not say **"It is well."**

Jesus saw and recognized God's people from afar off, even before creation. When they are greatly troubled with the weight of their sins, they come running to Christ. Jesus sees them afar off, for He is in heaven, and his Holy Spirit is in them to minister to them. Because of the new birth; they can come to Jesus believing and saying, **"it shall be well."** Why? Because we have the New Testament scriptures, and we know what happens in the end for all of God's people.

Remember we talked about a woman's duty to run the home? This woman is running her home in a godly manner. Remember the care she has taken, to see that the man of God stops at her house and has a resting place there. This is where the woman's true duty lies. She is to care for the children, and she is to teach them the word and ways of God. Every mother is a preacher, and her children are her congregation. Husbands, do not get the idea that you have no part in this, because you are the head and are to know the whole truth of the word of God. You are responsible to see that the mother is well grounded in the scriptures, that she may teach the children the whole truth while you are away working. Also, it is your own duty to teach the children the word and ways of God; especially when they accompany you like this lad was with his father.

27 "And when she came to the man of God to the hill, she caught him by the feet: but Gehazi came near to thrust her away. And the man of God said, Let her alone; for her soul is vexed within her: and the LORD hath hid it from me, and hath not told me. 28 Then she said, Did I desire a son of my lord? did I not say, Do not deceive me? 29 Then he said to Gehazi, Gird up thy loins, and take my staff in thine hand, and go thy way: if thou meet any man, salute him not; and if any salute thee, answer him not again: and lay my staff upon the face of the child. 30 And the mother of the child said, As the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee. And he arose, and followed her."

What a lesson here for us. The woman prostrate at Elisha's feet, and actually grabbing hold of them, explains the situation to Elisha. Elisha sends his servant with his staff and instructions about what to do. The woman declares that she will not go home with the presence of Elisha, the man of God. Oh! If only we could have such a heart's desire, to not go anywhere without the presence of The Man Of God, Jesus Christ. For as the scripture says in **Ro 8:31** "**What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?**" If only we can remember; when troubles come our way, we would flee to Jesus and fall at his feet, and like Jacob when he wrestled with Christ incarnate, not let go until we receive the blessing we need.

31 And Gehazi passed on before them, and laid the staff upon the face of the child; but there was neither voice, nor hearing. Wherefore he went again to meet him, and told him, saying, The child is not awaked. 32 And when Elisha was come into the house, behold, the child was dead, and laid upon his bed."

She does not waste time telling Gehazi, Elisha's servant, of the matter. She is determined to speak directly to the man of God. When we are born again, and recognize that we are sinners doomed to hell, except for the grace of God, we also flee to the man of God, Jesus Christ, and fall prostrate at his feet. There, we can unburden our vexed hearts, minds, and souls, and find relief from our sins. When they get there, Elisha finds the dead child lying upon his bed.

We see here the prophecy of the inability of a man to produce life eternal, or salvation, as people generally speak of it. How? Gehazi is just a servant to the man of God. How do we relate this to our lives today? Well, you see, there is a difference in Gehazi, Elisha's servant, and the Holy Spirit that Jesus sent to take his place. The Holy Spirit possesses the same power as the one who sent him. Gehazi did not possess the power that was in Elisha and could not bring the child back to life. The Holy Spirit possesses the same power as the one who sent him to earth in his stead, and the Holy Spirit can bring the sinner, dead in trespasses and sins, to spiritual life.

God's ministers cannot bring the sinner, dead in trespasses and sins, to spiritual life, just as Gehazi was unable to bring the child back to life. Any person who tells you that they can save you eternally is dead wrong. The change in the new birth is the sole work of God, not man.

Gehazi was not to greet anyone but to go directly to the dead child. The Holy Spirit, when sent to give the gift of eternal life to a person, does not greet anyone else in the way, but goes directly to that specific person. Unlike Gehazi, the Holy Spirit possesses the power to do the effectual work of bringing the dead to life.

Just as this woman would not go without Elisha went with her. When brought to the knowledge of the truth of eternal salvation, we cannot go without the presence of Jesus goes with us. May we always be found of so great faith in Jesus, that no matter what man may do to us, we can always say "**It is well.**"

33 "He went in therefore, and shut the door upon them twain, and prayed unto the LORD. 34 And he went up, and lay upon the child, and put his mouth upon his mouth, and his eyes upon his eyes, and his hands upon his hands: and he stretched himself upon the child; and the flesh of the child waxed warm. 35 Then he returned, and walked in the house to and fro; and went up, and stretched himself upon him: and the child sneezed seven times, and the child opened his eyes. 36 And he called Gehazi, and said, Call this Shunammite. So he called her. And when she was come in unto him, he said, Take up thy son. 37 Then she went in, and fell at his feet, and bowed herself to the ground, and took up her son, and went out."

Elisha goes into the room and shuts the door. We remember that Elisha told the widow woman to shut the door to pour the oil, so that she and her sons were the only witnesses of the miracle God wrought. We also remember the word of God in **Mt 6:6** "**But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.**" And in **Mt 6:18** "**That thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father which is in secret: and thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly.**" Elisha instructed the widow to shut her door, and she was rewarded openly before men. Elisha shuts the door, for he would not have the glory of men but that the name of God might be glorified. How careful we ought to be to insure that God gets all the glory for the miracles he works in our lives.

Elisha lies face to face upon the child and the child's flesh grows warm. He leaves the child and walks to and fro in the house. He returns and stretches himself upon the child again, and the child revives and sneezes seven

times, and opens his eyes. Elisha calls Gehazi to have the woman come into the room. She enters, she sees that her child is alive and bows prostrate before Elisha. She took up her child alive and went out.

Again, we see that the work of salvation was wrought behind closed doors and was manifested openly when the door was opened. As miraculous as this was, it is even a greater miracle when a child of God is born again. You see, the new birth is a work that is done behind closed doors, in a person's inward parts, and is manifest with the public confession of faith in Jesus Christ.

How many people knew of the death of the son of the Shunamite? Of her household, only the Shunamite woman knew. Her husband did not know. The servant that carried her to Elisha found out when they got to Elisha. Elisha and Gehazi knew when she told them. This helps us realize; eternal salvation is a personal gift of God to a particular person.

One of the duties of a mother is to pray for her dead children, who are dead in trespasses and sins, that they might be given spiritual life. She may do that, today, by going to the pastor, or minister of God, and pleading for prayer that God would do that miraculous work of salvation by grace in her children's lives. This would be aside from her own prayers. I am sure while the child sat upon her lap dying; she was praying for him. I am sure that when she put him on the man of God's bed; she was praying. I am sure when she went to Elisha, she was praying. I am sure that on the return to where the child was; she was praying.

Both, fathers and mothers, must carry their children to God in prayer for the eternal remission of their sins and the gift of eternal life to be bestowed upon them, which can only happen through the man of God as witnessed in this scripture. The man of God being Jesus Christ and his Holy Spirit presence. What a great responsibility parents have, and now humbling it should be to them, when they understand they are entrusted with caring for a child, or children, of God.

What joy! Would be in the heart of the Shunamite woman to receive her dead son alive. What joy! In the heart of parents today, when they see their child who was dead in trespasses and ins given the gift of the new birth. The Shunamite, the mother, received her child and returned to her own house. This gives us the picture of a newborn child of God being received into the fellowship of the New Testament Church. Praise God for the miraculous work of eternal Salvation by the Grace of God, wrought for us through Jesus Christ. Hallelujah! Amen!