



Sermon Series: Elisha: Seeing the Hand of God at Work

To be used with Session 2: God's Hand in Meeting Our Needs

Sermon Title Possibilities: God has it worked out!

Scripture: 2 Kings 4:1-7

Connection with Unit Theme: To complement the Bible study "Elisha: Seeing the Hand of God at Work," this sermon emphasizes the sovereignty of God. The Lord is in control of every aspect of our lives. Scripture teaches that God has provided the necessary activities a person needs to do to have their needs meet.

Introduction: Some people waste precious time driving around in circles because they refuse to ask for directions. Some put the life in jeopardy because they refuse to go to the doctor. These scenarios highlight the importance of knowing when you need help and also asking for it. Scriptures reminds us that those who desire to live godly will suffer persecution. As we look at this familiar story, we will discover that God provides for our needs. Therefore, when we are in the thick of it, we need to remember while we are trying to figure it out; God already has it worked out.

1. Look to the LORD (2 Kings 4:1).

In these verses, a nameless widow of the sons of the prophets expressed to Elisha that her godly husband died leaving her in debt. Because she was unable to pay, the creditors were going to take her two sons and make them slaves to repay the debt. Her actions were typical of the kings and people in that day. People sought the help of the man of God. Saul and his servant were looking for his father's donkeys and went to Samuel the prophet for help (1 Sam. 9:6-7). When King Jeroboam's son was sick, he sent his wife to Ahijah the prophet to receive a word from the LORD (1 Kings 14:2).

Just like the widow in this passage, we are called to look to the LORD for the answers and direction in life. Jesus told a parable about a widow who needed her situation remedied. The point of His story was for His followers to look to the Lord through continuous prayer and not give up (Luke 18:1). When you are distressed, burdened, sick, afflicted, or in trouble. Don't look to yourself! Look to the LORD!

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2. Listen to the LORD (2 Kings 4:2–4).

Elisha gave her instructions to follow, and she listened. God wants His people to hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches (), to listen to His voice. God wants His people to move beyond just knowing His instructions. He wants them to do what He instructs (John 13:17). This widow did not try to modify the instructions from the prophet, nor try to make excuses; she simply obeyed what the LORD said. The apostle James called for saints to be more than just a hearer but doer of the word (Jas. 1:22). Jesus stated that a wise man hears and does what He says (Matt. 7:24).

As we navigate through this life, it is important that we not just know what the word says but do what it says. God provided instruction for spouses, friends, parents, children, and saints in general. Have you really listened? Have you heard and obeyed? Husbands are you loving your wives as your own bodies? Children are you honoring your parents? Workers are you representing the Lord in your labor and not with eyeservice? Saints are you praying for those who misuse you? Are you truly listening?

3. Live in the LORD (2 Kings 4:5–7).

What was the result of the widow's labor? Her sons did not have to become slaves. She was able to pay her creditors and lived in the provision of God. The older saints used to say, "God may not come when you want Him, but He is always on time." If she was here today, this widow would amen that statement. She looked to the LORD and listened to Him. Now she was able to live off what God had done for her.

God is calling for us to live off of what He has done for us. When in sin, we looked to the Lord in our distress and He told us to come to Him, even the weary wounded and sad, and He would give us rest. Thank God! We looked but we also obeyed. Now we live in His grace, mercy, love, peace, joy, gentleness, and meekness. Now we have an abundant life (Jn 10:10).

Conclusion: It has been said that it is the noisy wheel that gets the oil. Others have said that closed mouths do not get feed. God wants you to show your dependance on Him. Paul reminded his readers that "God will supply all your needs according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 4:19). Don't hesitate to look to, listen to, and live in Him. He is willing and ready to help us in our time of need. "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?" (Heb 13:6).

Author Bio

Dr. Brian M. Carmichael Sr. is married to Stacey of twenty-seven years. They have four grown children (three boys and one girl) and two grandchildren. He is the pastor of Holy Temple Baptist in Memphis, TN. He is also on faculty with MCUTS of Union University. He received his BSCL from Union University (Jackson, TN) and his MDIV and Ph.D. from Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary. As a Christian leader, he has a passion for preaching, teaching, disciple-making, and all things church related.

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