

Stories of Elisha

1 Kings 19:19-21; 2 Kings 2:1-25; 4:1-7, 8-37, 38-41, 42-44;
5:1-27; 6:1-7, 8-23



bible verse

COMMITTING TO MEMORY

Luke 6:31

Do to others as you would
have them do to you.

Ms

main street

April 3, 2011



story lesson

BIBLE STORY

In the opening of the second book of the Kings, we see Elijah taken up to heaven in a blaze of glory. Elisha picks up the torch of Elijah and he becomes the “go-to” prophet in Israel. And who wouldn’t “go-to” him? He is a walking miracle man.



While he was in the city of Jericho, some men approached Elisha and talked about how well the town was situated, “but the water is bad and the land is unproductive” (2 Kings 2:19). Elisha had them bring him a new bowl and have some salt put in it. Then he went to the spring and threw salt in it, saying: “This is what the Lord says: ‘I have healed this water. Never again will it cause death or make the land unproductive’” (2 Kings 2:21). And the water was healed.

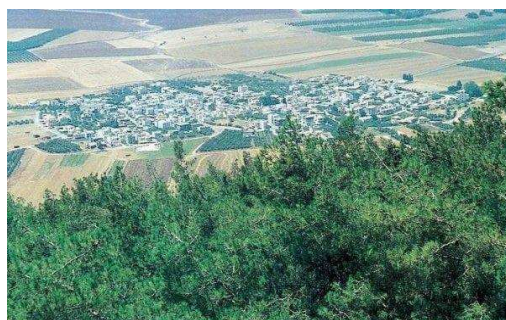
As Elisha was walking along a road, some youths came out and jeered him, calling him a ‘baldhead.’ Elisha called down a curse on them and two bears came out and mauled the youths...some 42 of them.

Elisha was a prophet for the kings of both Israel and Judah. However, he had no respect for the king of Israel, but immense respect for the king of Judah. The rival kingdom of Moab was causing trouble and the nation of Israel and Judah stopped them with the help of the Lord through Elisha.



A wife of a dead prophet was pleading with Elisha because creditors were coming to take her two sons as slaves. Elisha told her to collect as many empty jars as she could because she told him that she still had a little oil. She was to go into the house with all the empty jars and fill them with oil. "They brought the jars to her and she kept pouring. When all the jars were full she said to her son, 'Bring me another one.' But he replied, 'There is not a jar left.' Then the oil stopped flowing" (2 Kings 4:5-6). Elisha instructed the woman to sell some of the oil to pay her debts and then live on the rest.

Elisha was in the area of Shunem. A woman there asked Elisha to stay for a meal. He agreed and was pleased. He went to her home often. They even made a place for him to stay under their roof. Elisha wanted to do something for her and it was suggested that she would want a son. So, Elisha told the woman: "About this time next year...you will hold a son in your arms" (2 Kings 4:16). The woman said no, but she became pregnant and gave birth a year later. The child grew, but then he got sick and he died. The woman "laid the boy on the bed of the man of God [Elisha]..." (2 Kings 4:21). She then went to find the man of God. When she met Elisha and his servant she cried: "Did I ask for a son, my Lord? Didn't I tell you, 'Don't raise my hopes?'" (2 Kings 4:28). Elisha's servant rushed to the boy with Elisha right behind him. "When Elisha reached the house, there was the boy lying dead on his couch" (2 Kings 4:32). He shut the door, prayed, laid upon the boy twice. The boy's body began to grow warm. "The boy sneezed seven times and opened his eyes" (2 Kings 4:35). And so the Shunammite's son was restored to life.



Elisha went to a region that was suffering during a famine. He instructed a pot to be brought out and some stew made. "The stew was poured out for the men, but as they began to eat it, they cried out, 'O man of God, there is death in the pot!' And they could not eat it" (2 Kings 4:40). Elisha threw in some flower and there was therefore nothing harmful in the pot.

Still in the region of the famine, a man brought to Elisha twenty loaves of barley bread. He was instructed to give it to the people to eat. Before a hundred men? he asked. "Give it to the people, Elisha said. For this is what the Lord says: 'They will eat and have some left over'" (2 Kings 4:43).





Meanwhile, there was a commander of a foreign army called Naaman who “was a valiant soldier, but he had leprosy” (2 Kings 5:1). He was told that a prophet in Samaria (Elisha in Israel) could cure his leprosy. Naaman’s king released him to go and see this prophet. Naaman sent word to the king of Israel and was rewarded with a terse reply: “Am I God? Can I kill and bring back life? Why does this fellow send someone to me to be cured of his leprosy? See how he is trying to pick a [fight] with me?” (2 Kings 5:7). Elisha heard of this and went over the king of Israel’s head, sending word to Naaman telling him to come to Elisha. The prophet’s instructions were to “wash yourself seven times in the Jordan, and your flesh will be restored and

you will be cleansed” (2 Kings 5:10). Naaman was angry with this prescription – he wanted the prophet to heal him with his word, not insignificant actions in the Jordan River. Naaman’s servants, however, spoke wisdom into his life and Naaman relented and washed himself in the Jordan seven times. When he had done so, “his flesh was restored and became like that of a young boy” (2 Kings 5:14). Then Naaman went back to see this man of God: “Now I know that there no God in all the world except in Israel” (2 Kings 5:15).

Later on, some men with Elisha were cutting down trees beside the Jordan River. “As one of them was cutting down a tree, the iron axe head fell into the water. ‘Oh, my Lord,’ he cried out, ‘it was borrowed!’” (2 Kings 6:5). Elisha asked where it had fallen into the water, threw a stick into the water, and made the iron float.



Israel was at war with the king of Aram (Naaman’s king). Every time the Arameans went to sneak up or go a certain place, Israel would meet them there, like someone was slipping secrets to Israel from Aram. The king of Aram was furious! He found out that it was Elisha the prophet in Israel that “tells the king of Israel the very words you speak in your bedroom” (2 Kings 6:12). So the king of

Aram sent his army to find Elisha. He was found in the city of Dothan. The city was surrounded with an army of horses and chariots. Elisha’s servant freaked out: “Oh, my lord, what shall we do?” (2 Kings 6:15). Elisha answered: “Don’t be afraid. Those who are with us are more than those who are against us.’ And Elisha prayed, ‘O Lord, open his eyes so he may see.’ Then the Lord opened the servant’s eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha” (2 Kings 6:16-17). Elisha asked the Lord to strike the human army with blindness and it was so. Elisha then led the army of Aram



into the city of Samaria (the capital of Israel), into the hands of the king of Israel. They did not kill them, but then sent them on their way back to Aram. The Arameans stopped making war against Israel.

The story of Elisha's involvement speaking the word of the Lord continues through the various events of Israel for a time. He advises kings and enemies alike. But the remarkable events of his life were the incredible miracles recorded in this section. These miracles foreshadow what THE man of God would do in the same locations as the prophet Elisha did. Jesus.

MIRACLE

Many of these miracles mirror the miracles of Jesus when he walked this earth. It is uncanny. Restoring to life of a boy. Healing lepers. Feeding hundreds if not thousands of people. Remember, Jesus is the 'word' made flesh—the 'meaning' of God. He is the plot, the story, the climax, and the end. Any story which is a story, has Jesus in it. It is easy to see in this selection of stories, the God-man at work through the willing and obedient servant Elisha.





life application

MAKING IT REAL

Allowing oneself to be used of God

Elisha was a willing and obedient servant of the Lord. He followed him faithfully and wholeheartedly. He foreshadows Jesus. He allowed his life to be used of God to accomplish his purposes in people's lives and the course of nations. Do we let God plot a course for our lives? Is he our captain?

Moral of the Story (Miracles)

Each miracle points to a certain moral, or a way of living. Point them out. Make them apply. I.e. trust, forgiveness, opening of blinded eyes, etc.



questions

REMEMBERING

- 1. What was the name of the prophet after Elijah?** Elisha
- 2. How did Elijah die?** He did not die... He was taken up into heaven in a blaze of glory
- 3. What were some of the miracles that Elisha did?**
He healed water; multiplied oil in jars; resurrected a young boy back to life; healed a foreign military commander named Naaman; and helped some guys find an axe head that had fallen off its handle
- 4. Whose eyes did Elisha ask God to open in order to see the invisible army of God surrounding their enemies?** His servant
- 5. Who else did some amazing miracles just like Elisha?** Jesus.
- 6. Are miracles important? Why or why not?**
- 7. If you never saw a miracle happen, would you still believe in God?**



coloring sheet

ON THE NEXT PAGE



Stories of Elisha