

GOD SUPPLIES

Wednesday, September 20

Reading: 2 Kings 4

2 Kings 4:8 *One day Elisha went to Shunem. And a well-to-do woman was there, who urged him to stay for a meal. So whenever he came by, he stopped there to eat. 9 She said to her husband, "I know that this man who often comes our way is a holy man of God. 10 Let's make a small room on the roof and put in it a bed and a table, a chair and a lamp for him. Then he can stay there whenever he comes to us."*

Most of Israel had turned away from the Lord or at least were sitting on the fence regarding idol worship (notice Elijah's plea on Mt. Carmel - 1 Kings 18:21). Now we see that Elijah's ministry did have an impact. There were a group of godly men and women who now openly served God. Elisha journeyed to several cities where "schools of prophets" had been established to train people in how to serve God. In this chapter, we see him ministering to the individual needs of people.

First, a widow of one of the prophets cannot pay her husband's debt and the creditor is going to take her two boys as slaves in payment. God miraculously provides a flow of oil so she can pay her debts and have a little left over to live on.

The next event begins with a godly woman who wants to minister to Elisha. She provides a meal and a place he can stay whenever he is in the area. In return for this blessing Elisha wants to grant her a request. However, she is content. Her only desire was to serve the Lord by helping His prophet. When Elisha promises that she will have a son the woman can hardly believe it, but the next year she has a baby. A few years later, her boy is injured and dies. She goes to Elisha who returns with her and God raises the boy back to life.

The last two events deal with supplying the needs of the company of prophets. First, Elisha "cures" a pot of stew that has been poisoned. At another city, he multiplies twenty loaves of bread and some grain to feed the crowd of 100 men. God was using Elisha to provide for the needs of His people.

POINTS TO PONDER:

1. In the miracle of the widow's oil, God used what the woman had to meet her need. Elisha was not even present! He simply told her what to do and God did the rest. This miracle was based on her obedience to the word of the Lord as she stepped out in faith. Do you allow God to use what you have to accomplish His purposes? How can you step out in faith and obey what God has told you to do?
2. In the story of the woman of Shunem, we see that serving the Lord is rewarding. This woman and her husband did not provide for Elisha to get a reward. When given the chance to ask the prophet for something, she refuses. She served out of the love in her heart. But God does not leave such devotion unnoticed. What is the motive behind your giving and serving the Lord?

Hebrews 6:10 God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them.

3. These stories remind us that God always supplies the needs of His people. Have you thanked God for supplying your needs today? (Philippians 4:19)