

Glen Park Gospel Church  
**Tuesday Evening Bible Study Group Notes**

Rev Chris Trinham

Elisha

No 7

## Raising the Shunammite's Son

Second Kings 4:18-37

The Hebrew describes this Shunammite's care, 'You have trembled with all this trembling 2 Kings 4:13.' The Hebrew is paralleled by the Greek word *turbazo* which comes into English through the Latin as 'turbid' or 'disturbed.' The New Testament parallel to her is Martha. 'Martha, Martha you are *anxious* 3309 to the point of disturbing care, and *turbulent* 5182 about many things' Luke 10:41. Hospitality should be both a grace in every believer and a gift to the few and not to be overlooked. All are called to share with Mary the worship of the Lord.

In response to all the Shunammite's care Elisha sought to bestow a blessing. Over time he brought two miracles into her life.

### **There was the miracle of the natural birth of her son.**

Today failure to conceive is a great misfortune, it was in her day a reproach. See: Genesis 30:23; 1 Samuel 1:6; Luke 1:25.

Many then as now pray over the inability to conceive as God has added the gift of children to His blessing conferred upon those who obey Him. See: Deuteronomy 7:13&14. Why then is then do we sometimes have a problem?

It is true of all God's blessings. He may deliver one person from the shackle of a sin immediately upon conversion, but another may be constrained to continued faith and prayer. God's relationship with each of His children is unique.

Sometimes He teaches us things through these battles we can learn no other way, the secrets of faith that become the weapons of spiritual warfare to assault the strongholds of Satan is the days of service yet to come.

What God taught her was the secret 'His word of promise.' Elisha as a prophet spoke God's promise to her. We have God's written word, and access to God through Jesus Christ, our great High Priest.

When God gives us His word that a desired outcome will take place, nothing can circumvent it. It will occur. He is only advising us in advance of what He has already chosen to do. God is God. It will come to be. So it was with her.

Greater than the gift of a son was the learning of the lesson!

Here is the promise, In the process of time, 'At this season next year you will embrace a son v16.' The Hebrew words used are interesting, 'At this set time, at the reviving time' or "in the spring" (Ellicott). Unbelief, hope, conception, gestation, pain and pleasure all took their natural course. She had to wait on God, but through it all, the promise of God prevailed.

**There was the miracle of the 're-birth' of her son,** in that her son was restored to her again from the dead in answer to her urgent prayer.

This was a temporal individual raising, of which there are a number recorded in Scripture, and not to be confused in any way with the general resurrection, part of which is Christ the first-fruits, then those who are His at His coming and last the wicked to judgement.

The woman has progressed in her trust in God through Elisha's influence. She:

Hid the problem from her husband.

He was concerned with the harvest, then an important task.

Took the matter into her own care.

Sometimes there are matters we must deal with ourselves, especially matters of the heart. It is not that we despise other's empathy, but we know what has to be done and it is best to get on with it.

Urged haste on the 6 hour journey.

The child was dead. 'The king's business requireth haste.' We need to be ever busy as stewards of the Lord's talents.

Refused to trust to Gehazi, even as she kept it from her husband. She knew where the matter must be placed and refused to be diverted.

Laid her problem before Elisha. We are not given all the conversation that passed between them. He understood the need and acted at once.

Refused to leave his presence until the need had been met. Like Jacob, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." Genesis 32:26.

Are we like this woman in our service to the Lord? Have we not been commanded to make disciples? Let our obligation drive us to our knees. 'Lord, Give me children, else I die.'

**A Prophet's off day.** The Shunemmite reached Elisha when he was out of touch with God. Here is an important lesson for us to learn. We all have times when we allow the affairs of this life eclipse our close relationship with God. Notice:

The arrival of the woman took him by surprise v17. He was accustomed to being appraised by God of current affairs that affected him 2 Kings 6:12. At this time it was not so. He was out of touch. It is God's plan that His people be filled with His Spirit.

He sent his servant with his staff for a quick fix v29. But this met with failure. The Bible is filled with examples of God's men who were so anxious to get on with things that they did not wait on Him, Like Saul with the sacrifice when Samuel delayed, and Saul took Samuel's ministry upon himself, so incurring God's wrath and condemnation, or Moses striking the rock, instead of speaking to it. Gehazi was a failure. See John 6:28 & 29.

He shut himself alone with the problem and with God, and gave himself to prayer. We are not given to know that prayer, but we are given to know that prayer answers all kinds of problems.

His disciples began questioning him privately, "Why could we not drive it out? And He said to them, 'This kind cannot come out by anything but prayer.'" Mark 9:28&29.

Bible quotations in this study are from the NASB, or as acknowledged. Word Numbers are Strongs

*Welcome* Glen Park Gospel Church

Lower Road, Eltham North

Sundays 10.30 am

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