

Mother's Day **2 Kings 4:8-37 (NKJV)**

We usually read our text and then preach from it, but since this text is so long we are going to preach our way through it.

Elisha is one of the primary characters in this beginning of 2 Kings.

He followed Elijah as the Man of God in preserving the Northern Kingdom of Israel.

He had several stations of the schools of the prophets that he would often travel to in a circuit.

As he did he passed by a village called Shunem and there he and the woman in our message connected.

I often wonder why do not know her name or the name of anyone in her family.

But on this Mother's day we want to look at the events recorded here about her life and the things this wonderful woman does.

We will see her first not as a mother but a great woman.

Later we see those characteristics that made her great come to life in relationship to her son and his death.

Let us look at this passage this morning. I hope you have your Bible open to 2 Kings 4:8 as we begin.

1. 8 Now it happened one day that Elisha went to Shunem, where there was a notable woman, and she persuaded him to eat some food. So it was, as often as he passed by, he would turn in there to eat some food.
 - a. She was a giving woman who looked for needs in others and how she could meet them.
2. 9 And she said to her husband, "Look now, I know that this is a holy man of God, who passes by us regularly.
 - a. Spiritual perception
 - i. As she spent time with Elisha she saw that he was the real thing.
 - ii. Just like today there were many false prophets.
 - iii. But she was spiritually discerning to recognize in Elisha the real deal.
3. 10 Please, let us make a small upper room on the wall; and let us put a bed for him there, and a table and a chair and a lampstand; so it will be, whenever he comes to us, he can turn in there."
 - a. Goes beyond normal hospitality.
 - i. There are always those who do just enough.

- ii. But she is willing to go far beyond that.
 - iii. There were many women who we find were the support of Jesus and his disciples as they traveled around ministering to people.
 - (1) Luke 8:1 ¶ And it came to pass afterward, that he went throughout every city and village, preaching and shewing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God: and the twelve [were] with him, 2 And certain women, which had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities, Mary called Magdalene, out of whom went seven devils, 3 And Joanna the wife of Chuza Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others, which ministered unto him of their substance.
 - (2) Many a prophet's chamber have been supplied for visiting missionaries by the example of the Shunammite woman over the years.
4. 11 And it happened one day that he came there, and he turned in to the upper room and lay down there. 12 Then he said to Gehazi his servant, "Call this Shunammite woman." When he had called her, she stood before him. 13 And he said to him, "Say now to her, 'Look, you have been concerned for us with all this care. What can I do for you? Do you want me to speak on your behalf to the king or to the commander of the army?' " She answered, "I dwell among my own people."
- a. She is satisfied with what she has.
 - b. She will not take advantage of his position.
 - c. She was not working an angle with her kindness.
5. 14 So he said, "What then is to be done for her?" And Gehazi answered, "Actually, she has no son, and her husband is old." 15 So he said, "Call her." When he had called her, she stood in the doorway. 16 Then he said, "About this time next year you shall embrace a son." And she said, "No, my lord. Man of God, do not lie to your maidservant!" 17 But the woman conceived, and bore a son when the appointed time had come, of which Elisha had told her.
- a. She accepts the blessing from the Lord.
 - b. We hear nothing else of her except it is assumed that she continued to provide for Elisha's needs.
6. 18 And the child grew. Now it happened one day that he went out to his father, to the reapers. 19 And he said to his father, "My head, my head!" So he said to a servant, "Carry him to his mother." 20 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, shut the door upon him, and went out. 22 Then she called to her husband, and said, "Please send me one of the young men and one of the donkeys, that I

may run to the man of God and come back." 23 So he said, "Why are you going to him today? It is neither the New Moon nor the Sabbath." And she said, "It is well."

- a. Her husband has complete confidence in her.
 - i. Proverbs 31:11 The heart of her husband safely trusts her; So he will have no lack of gain.
7. 24 Then she saddled a donkey, and said to her servant, "Drive, and go forward; do not slacken the pace for me unless I tell you."
 - a. She seeks the only one who can help, God.
8. 25 And so she departed, and went to the man of God at Mount Carmel. So it was, when the man of God saw her afar off, that he said to his servant Gehazi, "Look, the Shunammite woman!. 26 Please run now to meet her, and say to her, 'Is it well with you? Is it well with your husband? Is it well with the child?' " And she answered, "It is well." 27 Now when she came to the man of God at the hill, she caught him by the feet, but Gehazi came near to push her away. But the man of God said, "Let her alone; for her soul is in deep distress, and the LORD has hidden it from me, and has not told me." 28 So she said, "Did I ask a son of my lord? Did I not say, 'Do not deceive me?'" 29 Then he said to Gehazi, "Get yourself ready, and take my staff in your hand, and be on your way. If you meet anyone, do not greet him; and if anyone greets you, do not answer him; but lay my staff on the face of the child." 30 And the mother of the child said, "As the LORD lives, and as your soul lives, I will not leave you." So he arose and followed her.
 - a. Her dedication to her son means she will not accept failure.
 - b. It is interesting how faith grows.
 - i. The woman who thought that Elisha was kidding her about giving her barren womb a child now seeks his return to life.
 - ii. That is how faith is.
 - iii. God works in us what we can handle today, waiting the day when our faith in the Lord will shine even more.
9. 31 Now Gehazi went on ahead of them, and laid the staff on the face of the child; but there was neither voice nor hearing. Therefore he went back to meet him, and told him, saying, "The child has not awakened." 32 When Elisha came into the house, there was the child, lying dead on his bed. 33 He went in therefore, shut the door behind the two of them, and prayed to the LORD. 34 And he went up and lay on the child, and put his mouth on his mouth, his eyes on his eyes, and his hands on his hands; and he stretched himself out on the child, and the flesh of the child became warm. 35 He returned and walked back and forth in the house, and again went up and stretched himself out on him; then the child sneezed seven times, and the child opened his eyes. 36 And he called Gehazi and said, "Call this Shunammite woman." So he called her. And when she came in to him, he said, "Pick up your son." 37 So she went in, fell at his feet, and bowed to

the ground; then she picked up her son and went out.

- a. Notice that she will not receive her son until she has shown her thankfulness.
- b. I read a story this week how that an old man in Italy had been put on a ventalator to keep him alive while he had the coronavirus. And when they gave him the bill he began to cry. The people thought he was crying for the bill he could not pay. But that was not it he said. When I think over my 90 years on earth and I think of all the breaths that God has given me over the years, I wonder how can I ever repay Him.
- c. She really was a great woman.
 - i. Great in spiritual discernment.
 - ii. Great in kindness and care for the people of God.
 - iii. Great in her faith.
 - iv. And great in her thankfulness to the Lord.

I know that there are many mothers out there just like this one.

And like her we do not even know their names.

They will not receive congressional medals of honor.

They will not get the Nobel Peace prize.

They will not be woman of the year.

They just continue to labor away and remain faithful to Jesus.

It is no wonder we are called on to honor her.

And today that is what we do.