

2 Kings 4
Elisha's Ministry Among The People
Lesson 21

Following in the footsteps of his teacher Elijah, Elisha's ministry was similar in type yet different. God had used Elijah's ministry in a more confrontational, even flamboyant way. He was sent to King Ahab to announce God's judgment upon both a king and a nation who had broken the covenant and turned away from Him. Elisha's ministry included many of the same miracles Elijah did, but was more quiet and extended mostly to the ordinary people.

The Widow

1. The writer of Kings began this story by introducing the person who was in need. Who does it say she was and what was her immediate need? (vs. 1)
- 2.
3. Elisha asked what she had available in her house. How does the woman answer him (vs. 2)
4. Beginning with the little she had, what did Elisha tell her to do? (vs. 3-4)
5. Why do you think Elisha wanted the doors closed and her sons with her?
6. How was her faith challenged?
7. She believed Elisha and did as he instructed. What was the result? (vs. 5-7)
8. What was the miracle God performed on her behalf?
9. What did you learn from this story that you can apply to your life?

The Shunammite's Son

10. Describe the scene using verses 8 - 10.

11. How did Elisha respond to her kindness? (vs. 11-13)

12. Please comment on her answer and what that implied about her and her motives.

13. Elisha was determined to find some way to show his appreciation. Since she hadn't asked for anything, he turned to Gehazi, his servant. When Gehazi was asked for an idea, what did he say? (vs. 14)

14. Elisha called her a second time and she came to the door of his room. What was this conversation about & how did it go? (vs. 15, 16)

15. How did her faith differ from the widow in verses 1 - 7?

16. Verse 17 begins with the word, "but." But in spite of her lack of faith, what happened?

17. With the scene now set, describe what happened next. (vs. 18-20)

18. What action did the woman take? (vs. 21-24)

19. Why do you think the woman did not tell her husband their son was dead?

20. Where did the woman find Elisha? (vs. 25a)

21. Elisha saw her coming and sent Gehazi to meet her. He was to ask if everything was all right. What was her answer? (vs. 25-26)

22. Why do you think she answered that way?

23. When she finally reached Elisha, what did she do and how was that received? (vs. 27)

24. In your own words, paraphrase what she said to Elisha. (vs. 28)

25. Though she never came right out and told Elisha the situation, he knew immediately. How did he plan to take care of it? (vs. 29)

26. What did the woman think of his solution? (vs. 30)

27. While Gehazi obeyed Elisha and ran ahead, Elisha and the woman followed. How did it go for Gehazi? (vs. 31)

28. When Elisha finally arrived, what did he do? Please comment. (vs. 32, 33)

29. How did the story end? (vs. 34-37)

30. What was the miracle God performed through Elisha in this story?
31. How do you think that woman's faith was strengthened that day?

The deadly stew

32. Describe the who, what and where given in verse 38.

- Who:

- What:

- Where:

33. How were Elisha's seemingly impossible instructions carried out? (vs. 39)

34. What was the problem? (vs. 40)

35. How did Elisha deal with the problem and what was the result? (vs. 41)

36. What miracle did God perform through Elisha?

37. Using verse 38, whose faith do you think this was testing and why?

The Bread

38. The last story is about a faithful man from Baal Shalishah who brought a gift to Elisha and the prophets who were with him. What did he bring? (vs. 42)

39. When Elisha asked him to give it to the people, what was the man's reply? (vs. 43a)

40. What was Elisha's answer to him? (vs. 43)

41. And what was God's answer? (vs. 44)

42. What was the miracle God performed in this story?

Think about it!

These stories show that faith is taking God at His Word - even, or especially when we cannot see how He will provide. God's resources and creativity are unlimited to those who will trust and obey Him. We are challenged to believe that God is able to supply all our needs, even when we don't know how. As Elisha said, *"This is an easy thing in the eyes of the Lord..."*