

Elisha ~ Part 7

In my last post, we continued to explore the ministry of **Elisha** by looking at **2 Kings 4:8-10** where we introduced to another **Great Women**. In this post, we continue to learn more about this **Great Woman** in **2 Kings 4:11-17**.

The Great Woman Bears A Son

¹¹ One day Elisha came to visit there, and he went into the upper room to lie down. ¹² He said to Geichazi, his servant, 'Call this Shunamit.' He called her; and when she arrived, ¹³ he said to him, 'Tell her this: 'You have shown us so much hospitality! What can I do to show my appreciation? Do you want me to say anything to the king for you? or to the commander of the army?' She answered, 'I'm happy living as I do, among my own people.'¹⁴ He said, 'What, then, is to be done for her?' Geichazi answered, 'There's one thing — she doesn't have a son; and her husband is old. ¹⁵ Elisha said, 'Call her.' After he called her, she stood in the doorway. ¹⁶ He said, 'Next year when the season comes around, you will be holding a son.' 'No, my lord,' she answered. 'Man of God, don't lie to your servant!'¹⁷ But the woman conceived and gave birth to a son the following year when the season came around, just as Elisha had said to her.' ~ 2 Kings 4:11-17 (CJB)

The second part of the story introduces **Geichazi**, the assistant to **Elisha**, as an intermediary between **Elisha** and the unnamed woman. The prophet and his servant were resting in the room when **Elisha** expressed a desire to do something special for the woman because of her kindness to them, and he asked **Geichazi** to call her so that he could discuss the matter with her. **Elisha** poses the same question for to her as he did for the widow who came to plead her case: ***What can I do to show my appreciation?*** (2 Kings 4:2).

Elisha addressed his words to **Geichazi** possibly because the woman held **Elisha** in such high regard that she did not feel worthy to speak with him. However, her reply was humble and brief: ***I'm happy living as I do, among my own people.*** She did not want **Elisha** to intercede with the great God because she had no desire to be treated like a great person. She was hospitable because she wanted to serve the Lord.

Discussion with **Geichazi** reveals her real need: Unlike the widow, she cannot lose her children, because she has none. Her husband was older than she, so perhaps conception was impossible; but if God could do it for **Avraham** and **Sarah**, He could do it for them. It was likely that her husband would precede her in death, and without a family, she would be left alone and without support. **Geichazi** called her a second time, and this time **Elisha** spoke to her personally. He gave her a promise that sounded very much like God's words to **Avraham** and **Sarah** (Genesis 17:21; 18:14).

How many blessings husbands with nominal faith have received because of the dedication of their godly wives! The promise was fulfilled, and the woman gave birth to a son. Grace brought life where once there had been no life.

In my next post, we continue to explore the life of **Elisha**. In this post, we learn about this **Great Woman's Sorrow** in **2 Kings 4:18-28**.