

Elisha ~ Part 9

In my last post, we continued to explore the ministry of **Elisha** by looking at **2 Kings 4:18-27** where we learned about the **Great Women's Sorrow**. In this post, we learn about a **Second Great Miracle** in the life of this **Great Woman** in **2 Kings 4:29-37**.

A Second Great Miracle

"²⁹ Then Elisha said to Geichazi, 'Get dressed for action, take my staff in your hand, and be on your way. If you meet anyone, don't greet him; if anyone greets you, don't answer; and lay my staff on the child's face.'³⁰ The mother of the child said, 'As Adonai lives, and as you live, I will not leave you.' He got up and followed her. ³¹ Geichazi went on ahead of them and laid the staff on the child's face, but there was no sound or sign of life. So, he went back to Elisha and told him, 'The child didn't wake up.'³² When Elisha reached the house, there the child was, dead and laid on the bed. ³³ He went in, shut the door on the two of them and prayed to Adonai. ³⁴ Then he got up on the bed and lay on top of the child, putting his mouth on his mouth, his eyes on his eyes and his hands on his hands. As he stretched himself out on the child, its flesh began to grow warm. ³⁵ Then he went down, walked around in the house awhile, went back up and stretched himself out on the child again. The child sneezed seven times, then opened his eyes. ³⁶ Elisha called Geichazi and said, 'Call this Shunamit.' So, he called her; and when she came in to him, he said, 'Pick up your son. ³⁷ She entered, fell at his feet and prostrated herself on the floor. Then she picked up her son and went out.'" ~ 2 Kings 4:29-37 (CJB)

The woman and the servant must have ridden very fast to get to **Mount Karmel** in time for **Elisha** and **Geichazi** to return home with her the same day, and the animal must have been exhausted from such a strenuous trip in the harvest sun.

Why did **Elisha** send **Geichazi** ahead? He was probably the younger of the two men and could run faster and get to the house much more quickly. It was important that somebody get back to guard the corpse so that the father would not discover it and have it buried. **Geichazi** laid his staff on the boy's body, but nothing happened. (Was this because of what was hidden in his heart?) The woman rode the donkey and **Elisha** followed after her, but we are not told that he received special power as **Eliyahu** did when he ran before Ach'av's chariot (1 Kings 18:46).

Once again, the door was shut on a miracle (4:4; and see Luke 8:51). First, the prophet prayed, and then, following the example of **Eliyahu** (1 Kings 17:17-24), he stretched himself out over the corpse. He got up and walked in the room, no doubt praying and seeking God's power, and then he lay on the boy a second time. This time the boy came back to life, sneezed seven times and opened his eyes. The text does not explain the significance of the sneezes unless it was God's way of expelling something toxic from his lungs. You would think that **Elisha** would have been overjoyed to take the boy downstairs to his mother, but instead, he called **Geichazi**, who in turn called the mother.



"Elisha Raising the Son of the Shunammite"
By Frederic Leighton (1850-1896)

However, the story does not end there. We will meet this Great Woman again in 2 Kings 8:1-6 when **Elisha** announced the coming of a seven-year famine, he also advised the woman to relocate, so she went to dwell with the Philistines. When she returned to claim her property, **Geichazi** was speaking with the king and telling him about the resurrection of the boy, and his mother showed up in the palace! The king authorized the officials to return her property to her along with whatever income she had lost because of her absence. The death of the boy turned out to be a blessing in disguise.

Only God's grace can impart life, whether to a barren womb or a dead boy, and only God's grace can impart spiritual life to the dead sinner (John 5:24; 17:1-3; Ephesians 2:1-10). It was God who gave the boy life, but He used **Elisha** as the means to do it. So, it is with raising sinners from the dead: God needs witnesses, prayer warriors, and concerned saints to bring that life to them.

*"The Holy Ghost works by those who feel they would lay down their own lives for the good of others and would impart to them not only their goods and their instructions but themselves also if by any means they might save some. O for more **Elisha's**, for then we should see more sinners raised from their death in sin." ~ Charles Spurgeon ¹*

In my next post, we continue to explore the life of **Elisha**. In this post, we learn that **Grace Removes A Curse** in **2 Kings 4:38-41**.

¹ Quoted in Bible Exposition Commentary – Old Testament by Warren Wiersbe