

God Restores – May 10, 2023 Shunammite Woman is Restored!

Last week – talked about the many times God restored in the Bible. 1 more.
2 Kings 4 ... Shunammite woman. Lived in Shunem w/husband.

8 One day Elisha went to Shunem. And a well-to-do woman was there, who urged him to stay for a meal. So whenever he came by, he stopped there to eat. **9** She said to her husband, "I know that this man who often comes our way is a holy man of God. **10** Let's make a small room on the roof and put in it a bed and a table, a chair and a lamp for him. Then he can stay there whenever he comes to us."

- This is hospitality to God. God sees. God blesses.
- Our small acts of kindness are seen by our Heavenly Father.
- **Matt. 25:35** – "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in," . . . the Righteous will ask – when?
- **Matt. 25:40** – "whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

Proverbs 19:17 – "Kindness to the poor is a loan to the LORD, and He will repay the lender."

Matthew 10:42 – "And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is My disciple, truly I tell you, he will never lose his reward."

- Sometimes we don't see the importance of what we've done 'til later.
- We Give out of overflow, but then we receive God's Overflow.

2 Kings 4:11 - One day when Elisha came, he went up to his room and lay down there. **12** He said to his servant Gehazi, "Call the Shunammite." So he called her, and she stood before him. **13** Elisha said to him, "Tell her, 'You have gone to all this trouble for us. Now what can be done for you? Can we speak on your behalf to the king or the commander of the army?'" She replied, "I have a home among my own people."

- She **turns down a blessing**.
- She felt secure & content in what she had. God blesses. Abundantly.

14 "What can be done for her?" Elisha asked. Gehazi said, "She has no son, and her husband is old." **15** Then Elisha said, "Call her." So he called her, and she stood in the doorway. **16** "About this time next year," Elisha said, "you will hold a son in your arms." "No, my lord!" she objected. "Please, man of God, don't mislead your servant!"

- She's pushed down a dream so far, she is **declining goodness**.
- She's rejecting blessings. She's settled. Doesn't want to get **hope** up.
 - o **Psm 39:7** - "And now, Lord, for what do I wait? My **hope** is in You."
 - o Some people give up waiting. Stop hoping. Live w/an emptiness.
 - What have you stopped hoping for? Trust God's goodness.

17 But the woman became pregnant, and the next year about that same time she gave birth to a son, just as Elisha had told her.

- God blesses us. Our good deeds are rewarded by God's goodness
- God "is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think"

Eph. 3:20

- This is overflow blessing. Abundant love. **Abundant life**. Not mediocre.
 - o You are loved. **You're worth more than you've settled for.**

18 The child grew, and one day he went out to his father, who was with the reapers. 19 He said to his father, "My head! My head!" His father told a servant, "Carry him to his mother." 20 After the servant had lifted him up and carried him to his mother, the boy sat on her lap until noon, and then he died. 21 She went up and laid him on the bed of the man of God, then shut the door and went out.

- She's **putting her problem at the feet of God**. She's at the altar.

22 She called her husband and said, "Please send me one of the servants and a donkey so I can go to the man of God quickly and return." 23 "Why go to him today?" he asked. "It's not the New Moon or the Sabbath." "**That's all right,**" she said. 24 She saddled the donkey and said to her servant, "Lead on; don't slow down for me unless I tell you." 25 So she set out and came to the man of God at Mount Carmel.

When he saw her in the distance, the man of God said to his servant Gehazi, "Look! There's the Shunammite! 26 Run to meet her and ask her, 'Are you all right? Is your husband all right? Is your child all right?'" "**Everything is all right,**" she said.

- Twice, she's said: It's all right. Doesn't know how... trusts.
- Not telling her problems to anyone but God. **Only He can make it right.**

27 When she reached the man of God at the mountain, she took hold of his feet. Gehazi came over to push her away, but the man of God said, "Leave her alone! She is in bitter distress, but the Lord has hidden it from me and has not told me why."

- God hid the tragedy from Elisha. The Lord may **conceal His purposes** from us... He asks us to trust His goodness. . . His power.
- God builds trust --- difficulties of life. **Miracles better than mediocre!**

28 “Did I ask you for a son, my lord?” she said. “Didn’t I tell you, ‘Don’t raise my hopes?’”

- We have the same outbursts with God. Don’t give & take away.
- But **we can trust God with the rest of our stories.**

29 Elisha said to Gehazi, “Tuck your cloak into your belt, take my staff in your hand and run. Don’t greet anyone you meet, and if anyone greets you, do not answer. Lay my staff on the boy’s face.” 30 But the child’s mother said, “As surely as the Lord lives and as you live, I will not leave you.” So he got up and followed her.

- She’s not going home w/out Elisha. She’s not letting go of God’s hand.
 - o Too often, we walk away in anger. She stays.
 - o She doesn’t want indirect/from a distance power. **In Person Power Face to Face, in person.**

31 Gehazi went on ahead and laid the staff on the boy’s face, but there was no sound or response. So Gehazi went back to meet Elisha and told him, “The boy has not awakened.” 32 When Elisha reached the house, there was the boy lying dead on his couch. 33 He went in, shut the door on the two of them and prayed to the Lord. 34 Then he got on the bed and lay on the boy, mouth to mouth, eyes to eyes, hands to hands. As he stretched himself out on him, the boy’s body grew warm. 35 Elisha turned away and walked back and forth in the room and then got on the bed and stretched out on him once more. The boy sneezed seven times and opened his eyes. 36 Elisha summoned Gehazi and said, “Call the Shunammite.” And he did. When she came, he said, “Take your son.” 37 She came in, fell at his feet and bowed to the ground. Then she took her son and went out.

- Don’t try to dictate to God how to do things.
 - o His ways are not are ways, **but His goodness is our way of life.**
- God **restored life** to her son. God restored more than that in Her.
- God **restored hope** for her future. God **restored trust** in Him.
 - o **Jer. 29:11** – “For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, to give you a future and a hope.”

But there is more . . . **2 Kings 8** Elisha warns of famine, 7 yrs.

3 At the end of the 7 years she came back from the land of the Philistines and went to appeal to the king for her house and land. 4 The king was talking to Gehazi, the servant of the man of God, and had said, “Tell me about all the great things Elisha has done.” 5 Just as Gehazi was telling the king how Elisha had restored the dead to life, the woman whose son Elisha had brought back to life came to appeal to the king for her house & land. Gehazi said, “This is the woman, my lord the king, & this is her son whom Elisha restored to life.”

- No accident. . . we're on GPS. God's timing is right on time!

6 The king asked the woman about it, and she told him. **Then** he assigned an official to her case & said to him, “Give back everything that belonged to her, including all the income from her land from the day she left the country until now.”

- She praised God for His blessings . . . then another blessing comes.
 - o God doesn't give & take away . . . God restores.
 - o **God restored more than she lost** . . . home, income, son, & hope.

Putting your hope in yourself, or in God?

Have you been content, comfortable . . . but missing abundant blessings?

Restore your hope.

God gives crown of beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, a garment of praise for a spirit of despair. **Isa. 61:3**

God is in the restoration business!

Song of the week – Restored