

God Gives What Is Yours

The Shunammite woman in 2 Kings 4:8 was a rich and influential woman. After meeting Elisha when visiting her hometown of Shunem, she invited him to dinner. So every time Elisha would come through town he and his servant, Gehazi, would stop by to eat at her home. Then she approached her husband and said, "I know this man is a true prophet of God, so let's build a room just for him to stay in when he comes into town."

She gave out of her abundance.

What are we giving God?

Are we giving without question just to bless God?

What are we doing extra for God?

On one of Elisha's trips, as he lay down in the room built just for him, he said, "Gehazi, call the Shunammite woman." So she came and stood before Gehazi and Elisha said, ask her, "Because you have done all of this for us, what can be done for you? Can we speak to the king or commander of the army on your behalf?" She replied, "I have a home among my people." It seems she was content with everything considered important--a home, plenty of money, friends, relatives—basically, happy.

Because she was giving, Elisha was going to grant her a blessing.

She found herself in contentment. She felt blessed.

Elisha asked, "Gehazi, what can be done for her?" Elisha was determined to bless her. Gehazi said, "She doesn't have a son and her husband is old." Elisha then instructed Gehazi to call her. As she came and stood in the doorway. Elisha said, "By this time next year you will hold a son in your arms." She replied, "You're a man of God, please don't lie to me."

She didn't ask because of the fear of disappointment. Afraid of not getting what she truly desired. She was saying, "I know since you are a man of God, you would never lie to me." God doesn't lie. Why are we acting like it?

Guess what? She gave birth to a son and was holding him in her arms during the same time the following year.

Determined to give you a blessing, Elisha has Gehazi search to find a blessing.

Gehazi found a blessing of the heart.

As the boy grew older he eventually went to the fields with his father. One day, the boy grabbed his head, complained of a headache and then fainted. His father told the servants to carry him back to the house to his mother. As she was holding him in her arms: he died. It was around noon that day. She carried him to Elisha's room and laid him on his bed, walked out and shut the door.

Carried her burden and grief to the man of God. Today, we would go straight to God through Jesus Christ.

Then went down and told her husband to send a servant and transportation quickly. Her husband was surprised and replied, "But this isn't the Sabbath or the new moon." (The new moon was a celebration day.) She turned to her husband, and said, "Its all right." As she saddled the donkey, she turned to the servant and said, "Lead on, and don't slow down unless I instruct you."

She didn't speak of her situation to anyone. Didn't want their opinion or comments. Her focus was reaching the man of God. God gave her the miracle of a son and he was the only one that could bring him back to life.

As she approached Mount Carmel, Elisha noticed her in the distance and said to Gehazi, "Here's the Shunammite woman." Elisha told him to run and find out what she needs. Ask her if she's alright, husband or son? He knew there had to be an urgency. She brushed off Gehazi's questions with the reply, "Everything's alright," as she continued walking towards Elisha. When she got to him she fell and grabbed his feet. Gehazi was ready to push her away and Elisha said, "It's OK, leave her alone. She is grieved and God has not told me why."

Still she didn't want to discuss the situation with Gehazi. She was going to the source, GOD!

She asked Elisha, "Did I ask for a son? Didn't I tell you not to raise my hopes?"

Why did you give me a son just to take him away? Why God have you given me things just to take them away?

Elisha looked at Gehazi and said, "Tuck your cloak into your belt and take my staff in your hand and run. Don't stop for anyone. Don't talk to anyone, and don't let them talk to you, just keep going and lay my staff on his face." But she wasn't satisfied with this action, she looked at Elisha and said, "As the Lord lives and as I live--I'm not leaving your side." When he saw the determination, he got up and followed her back to the house.

Gehazi did exactly as Elisha had instructed but there was no response from the boy. As Elisha arrived, Gehazi informed him of the circumstances. So Elisha went in and shut the door with just him and the boy inside. He prayed and after no response, laid nose to nose, hand to hand, mouth to mouth, eyes to eyes on top of the boy and there was still no response; but the boy's body became warm. (Take note: Shunem was fifteen miles from Mount Carmel—thirty miles round-trip and the son died around noon.) Elisha got up and paced back and forth in the room and then again laid back on top of the boy as he had done before. The boy began to sneeze seven times and opened his eyes.

It takes standing on your trust in God, your knowledge of who he is to get back what something or someone is trying to take away, knowing with out a doubt God gave it to you through a miracle.

Elisha then summoned Gehazi and said, "Call the woman." As she approached he said, "Take your son." She immediately bowed down and thanked Elisha and then took the boy.

Because of her kindness and honoring God through taking care of the Holy Man of God, Elisha, in 2 Kings 8:16 warned the Shunammite woman to find a place to go away for awhile with her family because the Lord had decreed a seven-year famine.

In her obedience, she grabbed her family and went to live in the land of the Philistines for seven years. After seven years she returned and approached the King in order to ask for her land and house back.

She approached the King just as he was asking Gehazi to tell him all about the great things Elisha had done. Gehazi pointed and said, "Look this is the woman whose son Elisha brought back to life." The King then turned and asked her about it. She told him the entire story. The King then assigned an official to her case and said to him, "Give back everything that belonged to her, including all the income from her land since the day she left the country until now."

Review:

The Shunammite Woman took care of Elisha and servants when traveling through Shunem.

She took care of the man of God without asking or desiring anything back.

Asked her husband to build a room for Elisha.

Because God gave her the miracle of a son; ran to God for help in his death.

She gave when everything was plentiful and God protected her in the time of famine with a warning from Elisha.

When she approached the King; God, already, had set the circumstances for her to testify. She showed boldness in telling of God's love and in turn, God restored her home and land along with a seven-year income.

Result of Her Choices:

The Shunammite Woman honored God by giving unselfishly. Although she loved God and wanted to bless his prophet, she had a fear of disappointment. It is proven when she approaches Elijah and said, "Did I ask you for a son?" But she knew if God could command a miracle then the answer to her son's healing could only come from God. Therefore, she would not leave Elijah's side until he was in charge of the project, so to speak. By providing for Elijah, she never had to struggle through the famine as others did.

Recognized by Gehazi in the King's throne room, she wasn't afraid to testify when the King requested she tell the story of God's miracle of raising her son from death to life. God restored her home, land and provided a seven-year income that she didn't have to lift a finger to earn. Within the King's throne room; there were not just Gehazi and the King. Hundreds of people were always gathered around the King:

advisers, lawyers, military personnel, etc. She not only testified to the King that day; but to the hundreds sitting or standing in that room.