

A Faithful Woman of Israel – 2 Kings 4:8-37

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- I. Introduction
 - a. A woman in the Old Testament
 - b. We don't know her name or much of anything else about her
 - c. But we know a few of her deeds and words
- II. Key Statement – This woman has much to teach us regarding the rewards and challenges of faith in the Lord
- III. The Hospitable Woman – v. 8-37
 - a. Her faithful service – v. 8-11
 - i. Appreciation of God's servants
 - ii. Hospitality
 - b. The prophet's appreciation – v. 12-16
 - i. Offer of influence on her behalf among the powerful
 1. Politely declined
 2. No special needs or ambitions
 - ii. Offer of a child
 1. Too good to ask for
 2. Do not deceive me
 3. Don't get my hopes up unless you really mean it!!
 - c. The Child
 - i. The child is Given – v. 17
 - 1.
 - ii. The child is taken – v. 18-20
 1. Stricken
 2. Dies in her arms after hours of comforting and prayer
 3. Gone
 4. This is a senseless tragedy
 - a. Why give this poor woman a child if it is only going to be taken away?
 - b. Cruelty?
 - c. Punishment for her sins? –
 - i. Like the Sidonian widow –
 - ii. "Have you come to me to bring my sin to remembrance, and to kill my son?" 1 Kings 17:18
 - iii. Her response – v. 21-28
 1. She will not rest until she determines if this loss is God's will
 2. Prayer – she has been praying
 - a. For us, our determination of God's will is confined to God's word and prayer

3. But for her, There is a miracle working man of God in Israel as well
4. That is who she is determined to see
5. Her plea
 - a. Did I ask for this son?
 - b. Didn't I say, "Do not deceive me?"
 - c. Is it really God's intention to take this child away from me?
- iv. The Child is Restored – v. 29-37
 1. Gehazi goes ahead – no change
 2. Elisha begs God for the child's life
 3. God restores the child
- v. All with no explanation!
 1. Why was the child given?
 2. Why was the child taken?
 3. Why was the child restored?
 4. Only questions, no answers!!!
- vi. Whys....
 1. So many tragic events have no explanation
 2. So many joyous events have no explanation, either

THE WEAVER

Written by B.M. Franklin (1882-1965)

My life is just a weaving
 Between my Lord and me.
 I cannot choose the colors
 He weaves so skillfully.

Sometimes He weaveth sorrow
 And I in foolish pride
 Forget He sees the upper
 And I the underside.

Not 'til the loom is silent
 And the shuttles cease to fly
 Will God unroll the canvas
 And explain the reasons why-

The dark threads are as needful,
 In The Weaver's skillful hands
 As the threads of gold and silver
 In the pattern He has planned.

3. We are wise to leave the whys to the Lord

- IV. Later events –
 - a. There are two subsequent events which give us additional perspective on this woman.
 - b. The risen son restores the woman's inheritance - 2 Kings 8:1-6
 - i. Famine coming
 - ii. Seven years gone
 - iii. When she returns, her lands have been taken by others
 - iv. Whereas before, she had no need or desire to have someone influence the king on her behalf, now she does
 - 1. But Elisha isn't available to ask for help
 - 2. So she goes to the king's court to do the best she can
 - v. We have several phrases for what happened next
 - 1. It just so happened...
 - 2. As luck/fate would have it...
 - 3. Coincidentally...
 - vi. What happened...
 - 1. Gehazi just happened to be there
 - 2. The king just happened to be curious about Elisha's miracles
 - 3. Gehazi just happened to tell him about the woman whose son was raised
 - 4. The woman and her son just happened to arrive to ask for help from the king at that very moment
 - 5. They got the help they needed
 - vii. This is not
 - 1. Luck
 - 2. Fate
 - 3. Happenstance
 - 4. or Coincidence
 - viii. It is the Providence of God
 - 1. Rom. 8:28
 - c. Another risen Son gave the woman an eternal inheritance
 - i. Born miraculously
 - ii. Taken cruelly and senselessly from a human perspective
 - iii. Restored miraculously
 - iv. Able to wield enormous influence on behalf of His family with the VERY HIGHEST AUTHORITY
 - 1. The Creator
 - 2. The Lord of Heaven and Earth
 - 3. The I AM
 - v. Heb. 9:11-15; 7:24-27; 4:14-16
 - vi. When he died, was buried, raised and ascended to the Father
 - 1. He completed finally and eternally the intentions of God in caring for this faithful woman of Israel
 - 2. In her desires she turned to the Lord
 - a. She desired fellowship with God's prophet

- b. She desired a son
- c. When she lost her son, she desired to have him restored
- d. In all these desires she turned to Jehovah the God of Israel for the fulfillment of her desires and in thanksgiving when they were satisfied
- 3. In her need she also turned to the Lord
- 4. But her greatest need of all
 - a. Forgiven sin
 - b. Only partially resolved by the sacrifices and offerings of the law of Moses
 - c. For her eternal wellbeing to be secured
 - d. The Son of God must be given, taken and restored
 - e. Just like her son had been
 - f. And that Son needed to speak and act on her behalf in the court of heaven
- 5. Her greatest need was provided for

V. Conclusion

- a. We have the same greatest need
 - i. Jesus Christ is her Savior and ours
 - ii. There is no other Savior
- b. INVITATION