



1

The ministry of Elisha 2 Kings 2:19-13:20

- God's provision for a distressed widow. 2 Kings 4:1-7
 - The Old Testament law made the provision for a person to sell himself into servanthood for a period of 7 years or to the year of Jubilee. Leviticus 25:55 indicates that the children of the man could be a part of this provision.

2

The ministry of Elisha 2 Kings 2:19-13:20

- God's provision for a distressed widow. 2 Kings 4:1-7
 - The widow did not have a legal recourse in this matter.
 - Note that Elisha asked her what she had and then gave her the responsibility to gather the vessels to carry out his instructions.
 - She was to sell the oil to pay off the debt.

3

The ministry of Elisha 2 Kings 2:19-13:20

- Elisha and the family at Shunem. 2 Kings 4:8-37
 - Elisha was invited to dinner at a wealthy home and made it a practice to stop there when in the area.
 - After a while, this wise and discerning woman approached her husband about providing a special room set aside to house the man of God.

4

The ministry of Elisha 2 Kings 2:19-13:20

- Elisha and the family at Shunem. 2 Kings 4:8-37
 - Elisha, filled with gratitude for this provision, offered to do something special for her.
 - The woman replied that she was content with the life she had.
 - Upon learning from his servant that she was childless, Elisha proclaimed by God's word that she would have a son within a year.

5

The ministry of Elisha 2 Kings 2:19-13:20

- Elisha and the family at Shunem. 2 Kings 4:8-37
 - The woman was stunned by this nearly unbelievable news.
 - A son was born to the couple.
 - Years later the son was stricken and died.

6

The ministry of Elisha 2 Kings 2:19-13:20

- Elisha and the family at Shunem. 2 Kings 4:8-37
 - The woman immediately went to Elisha with the trust that God would intervene.
 - Elisha sent his servant with his staff but later came himself and prayed and followed God's direction leading to the boy coming back to life.

7

The ministry of Elisha 2 Kings 2:19-13:20

- God's intervention for the sons of the prophets. 2 Kings 4:38-44
 - The deadly stew 4:38-41
 - Famines were not that uncommon and often a result of God's judgment. Rainfall is scarce in these areas and one dry season could be devastating.
 - A well meaning and industrious member of the sons of the prophets gathered and prepared wild gourds that turned out to be inedible.

8

The ministry of Elisha 2 Kings 2:19-13:20

- God's intervention for the sons of the prophets. 2 Kings 4:38-44
 - The deadly stew 4:38-41
 - Someone recognized the ingredient as harmful and alerted Elisha.
 - God made the stew edible when flour was added.

9

The ministry of Elisha 2 Kings 2:19-13:20

- God’s intervention for the sons of the prophets. 2 Kings 4:38-44
 - The multiplication of food 4:42-44
 - Elisha directed food that was brought for him to be given to the sons of the prophets.

10

The ministry of Elisha 2 Kings 2:19-13:20

- God’s intervention for the sons of the prophets. 2 Kings 4:38-44
 - The multiplication of food 4:42-44
 - The objection was that this amount of food could not possibly feed 100 men. (This could also have included their families.)
 - Elisha indicated that it would be sufficient and there would be food left over which is exactly what happened.

11

Lessons

- God is always revealing Himself through His work in the world.
- A good principle in helping a person in need is to give them the dignity and accountability of contributing what they can and help them understand what they have to contribute.
- Wealth alone is not evil but can and is used in many ways for the glory of God.

12

Lessons

- Discernment is a vital part of any kind of ministry.
- Never hesitate to go to God on behalf of your children.
- Be careful about viewing service to God as routine.
- God can and will redeem our bumbling efforts.
- God can and will take what is given to Him and multiply it far beyond our expectations.
