

SERMON OUTLINE

STUDIES IN THE LIFE AND TIMES OF ELISHA

'Elisha: the messenger of salvation' - 4

2 Kings 4 v1 - 7

Key text - Phil 4 v19

Key illustration of this text - the story of this woman in this passage.

Key question - Who is this God who promises to supply all our needs?

1. THIS GOD - AND HIS MYSTERIOUS PROVIDENCE

It's true - 'God moves in a mysterious way'. What happened to this woman was nothing unusual in that these things do happen. But who was this woman? See - v1. Her husband, in other words, had been faithful to the Lord! Indeed, all that happened to him and then to his wife may well have been the direct result of this faithfulness. Key question - is this the reward of faithfulness? 'God moves in a mysterious way'.

Key question - What do we learn from this woman, from her reaction and response, with respect to these situations which we can sometimes find ourselves in when the providences of God just seem to make no sense whatsoever? Note:-

A. HOW SHE CRIED TO THE LORD

She cried out to Elisha because she knew that Elisha was God's representative - and the minister of His word.

B. WHAT SHE KNEW OF THE LORD

See - Deut 10 v18a & James 1 v27a. This was her confidence as she cried out to the Lord - God is the God of the widow, and as such would be to her in her distress all that that she could possibly need!

2. THIS GOD - AND HIS MIRACULOUS PROVISION

Key question - How was this woman's need met? Answer - by God through the exercising of her faith. There are 2 things to note about this woman's faith:-

A. THERE IS HOW THIS FAITH WAS TESTED

Note the 2 questions in verse 2. These were designed to underline for her 2 things:-

(i) The enormity of her need - "How can I help you?"

(ii) The poverty of her resources - "What do you have in your house?"

This is where faith begins - with nothing!

'Nothing in my hand I bring.....'

Remembering that miracles are redemptive - this is a picture of the gospel in that we can contribute nothing to our salvation except the sins which necessitate it.

Look at how her faith was tested. See - v3 - 4.

B. THERE IS HOW THIS FAITH WAS PROVED

See - v5 - 7.

Key verse of application - Rom 8 v32