

## **SERMON OUTLINE**

### **STUDIES IN THE LIFE AND TIMES OF ELISHA**

#### **'Elisha: the messenger of salvation' - 5**

#### **2 Kings 4 v8 - 37**

Who was this nameless Shunammite woman? We don't know - but we have her picture. See - Heb 11 v35. This is what this passage (this story) is all about - having faith in God in the midst of the darkest of darkest tragedies.

#### **1. THE PROMISE OF THIS SON - AND HOW FAITH IS REWARDED**

What are we told about this woman?

##### **A. SHE WAS MATERIALLY WEALTHY**

See - v8a. Is there a contrast here with the poor woman in v1 - 7. Key Point - wealth is no protection against trials, troubles, and tribulations such as this. In other words, when a tragedy like this does happen you're going to need more than material and financial wealth to give you the comfort and the hope that you really need.

##### **B. SHE WAS SPIRITUALLY HUNGRY**

See - v8 & v23a. What was the evidence that she had been changed - converted? Answer - what she used her money for! See - v9 - 10 & Matt 6 v19 - 21.

Key Verse - Matt 10 v40 - 41a. This woman was rewarded (not that she was looking for it) with the promise of a son. Note - it was said of woman who couldn't bear children that they were under the curse of God. Now note the language here in verse 15 - "about this time next year....." See - Gen 18 v10 - Isaac, the child of blessing. And so God was saying here - 'I'm not cursing you - I'm blessing you.'

Application - God has blessed us in giving us a Son - Jesus!

The story doesn't end here - oh that it did!

## **2. THE DEATH OF THIS SON - AND HOW FAITH WAS TESTED**

See - v18 - 20. Another mysterious providence! But note - the marvellous faith. Look at this woman's faith reaction / faith response in what she did and didn't do.....

### **A. WHAT SHE DID DO**

See - v21. Remembering that Elisha was God's representative and the minister of His word, she was giving her son into the hands of God - and trusting in His life giving word.

### **B. WHAT SHE DIDN'T DO**

See - v22 - 23. Key Point - this woman wasn't preparing for a funeral, she was preparing for a resurrection.

Key Question - What was this woman holding on to in the midst of all of this. See - v30 - "the Lord lives!"

Application - see - 2 Cor 1 v8 - 9

## **3. THE RESURRECTION OF THIS SON - AND HOW FAITH WAS VINDICATED**

Note - The son wasn't raised by magic! See - v31. He was raised by the power of God in answer to prayer. See - v33.

Key Point - The resurrection of this son points forward to the resurrection of another Son - Jesus! Remember - this son here would one day die, and so need this other resurrection. The resurrection is our great comfort, peace and hope, not least in the midst of the mysterious providences of God.