



## Elisha &amp; the Widow's Oil

2 Kings 3 - 4



Through Elisha, God saved nations and showed His love to the needy. God invited His people to participate in His miracles. Their actions gave proof of their faith in God.

## Day #1: Two Choices

The Israelites were in a new era. King Ahab and Queen Jezebel had died. Their son, Joram, ruled over the northern kingdom of Israel. Sadly, Joram was almost as wicked as his parents. But there was a good king, named Jehoshaphat, ruling over the southern kingdom of Judah. Jehoshaphat respected the Lord God.

One day, the King of Moab, a neighboring land, decided to go to war against Israel. King Joram asked King Jehoshaphat to be on his side. Jehoshaphat agreed and the two armies combined. The army of Edom also joined them.

After marching seven days, the soldiers were completely out of water. There was nothing for them or their horses to drink. King Joram did not trust the Lord. He wanted to blame the Lord for his problem (2 Kings 3:10).

† *But Jehoshaphat asked, "Isn't there a prophet of the Lord here? Can't we ask the Lord for advice through him?"*

*An officer of the King of Israel spoke up. He answered, "Elisha is here... Elisha used to serve Elijah." - 2 Kings 4:11*

Prompted by King Jehoshaphat, King Joram went to Elisha for help. Elisha was not interested in helping Joram because he worshipped false gods. However, because King Jehoshaphat was also in the battle, Elisha was willing to help. King Joram would gain great benefits just for being along side the faithful Jehoshaphat.

\* When you have a problem, you have two choices. You can be like King Joram, and blame God for it. Or you can be like King Jehoshaphat, who trusted God. Jehoshaphat saw the problem as an opportunity to see God work a miracle on His behalf.

## Day #2: Double Miracle

The Lord gave Elisha His plan. Elisha told King Joram to have all of his soldiers dig ditches all across the valley they were in. He said that it wasn't going to rain, but the valley would be filled with water. Elisha said, "This will be an easy thing for the Lord." (2 Kings 3:18) He also told the King that the Lord would hand his enemy over to him.

Digging ditches is hard work! The soldiers were tired and thirsty, but they dug ditches all over the valley anyway. The men could not imagine how the Lord would fill the ditches with water, but they believed that God could do anything, so they obeyed. Their action of digging ditches gave proof of their faith in God.

† *The next morning, about the time for offering the sacrifice, there it was - water flowing from the direction of Edom! And the land was filled with water. - 2 Kings 3:20*

Water didn't fall from the sky. It came gushing from the land that the soldiers had just marched through! Not only did the water give the men and horses plenty to drink, but that very water gave them victory over the Moabites.

*(The Moab army) got up early in the morning. The sun was already shining on the water. Across the way, the water looked red to the men of Moab. It looked like blood. "That's blood!" they said. "Those kings must have fought and killed each other. Let's go, Moab! Let's take everything that has any value." - 2 Kings 3:22-23*

The Moabites were taken completely by surprise when the soldiers of Israel and Judah ran out to fight them. That day, the armies of God's people won the battle against the army of Moab. None one could ever have imagined such an amazing solution for the Israelites. Only God could have used such a creative way to care for His people, and defeat their enemy.

\* Trust the Lord, and show your faith by your obedience. The Lord sees all things, into eternity. He knows what is best for you. His solutions are better than anything we could ever even imagine (Isaiah 55:9). Only He can make all things work together for your good and the good of His Kingdom (Romans 8:28).

## Day #3: Abundant Provision

What happens when you run out of something, like milk, at your house? Most of us put it on our grocery list, so we can buy some more at the store. But what if you had no money to buy groceries? And what if you had no hope of earning any money? This was the case for a widow woman in Elisha's day. Today we'll see that God is not only willing to fight for an army, but He is just as ready to help each man, woman, and child who trusts in Him (Isaiah 64:4).

### Day #3 continued:

Sometime after the battle with Moab, a woman came to Elisha. Her husband, one of the prophets, had died. Her husband owed money to someone, and she was unable to pay the debt. The person whom she owed money to was going to take her children to be slaves in order to pay the debt. This woman was desperate. She came to man of God for help. She came to the right place!

The woman told Elisha that the only thing she owned was a little bit of oil, but it was almost gone. Elisha told her to get empty jars from all of her neighbors, and to start pouring her oil into the jars. One by one, the jars would be filled with valuable oil.

Right away, the widow woman went to her neighbors and asked for empty jars. This action proved that she believed God would perform a miracle for her. Sure enough, the woman began to pour her last drops of oil into an empty jar, and the oil kept on pouring! Soon the house was filled with jars that were brimming with oil! The woman could sell the oil, pay the debt, and have money to care for her children. Can you imagine the look on her young sons' faces as the oil poured and poured? God had provided; they would not become slaves!

Only God could do a thing like this. Only God can create something out of nothing (Genesis 1:1), or fill an empty jar with oil. The Lord loves His people, and He is happy to take care of their needs (Matthew 7:11).



*Look at the birds of the air. They don't plant or gather crops. They don't put away crops in storerooms. But your Father who is in heaven feeds them. Aren't you worth much more than they are?* - Matthew 6:26



Every person is important to God. You are important to God! He delights over you, and He wants to provide everything you need (Zephaniah 3:17).

## Day #4: Unimaginable

Did you ever receive a gift that you didn't ask for? Sometimes the best gifts are the ones we don't expect.

There was a generous woman who lived in the town of Shunem. She and her husband were wealthy, but they had no children. The woman was kind to Elisha because she respected the Lord. She and her husband even prepared a room for Elisha and his servant to stay in whenever they were in town.

Elisha wanted to do something for the woman to repay her kindness. He even offered to speak to the King on her behalf. But the woman politely told Elisha that she had everything she needed. Being happy with what you have is called contentment. The Bible says this attitude is great (1 Timothy 6:6).

Elisha still wanted to bless the woman somehow. After the woman left the room, Elisha's servant mentioned that she did not have a son, and her husband was getting

### Day #4 continued:

quite old.

*Then Elisha said, "Bring her here again." So he did. She stood in the doorway. "You will hold a son in your arms," Elisha said. "It will be about this time next year." - 2 Kings 4:15-16a*

The woman was overwhelmed. She was afraid Elisha was kidding her. But one year later, just as Elisha promised, the woman had a baby boy. This was a greater blessing than the woman could have ever hoped for. Blessing His children is part of God's character.



*God is able to do far more than we could ever ask for or imagine.* - Ephesians 3:20a

*But it is just as the Scriptures say, "What God has planned for people who love Him is more than eyes have seen or ears have heard. It has never even entered our minds!" - 1 Corinthians 2:9 CEV*



List some of the blessings that God has given to you and your family. Can you imagine your life without those blessings? God's blessings are one way He shows His love to you (Deuteronomy 23:5).

## Day #5: New Life

No one's life is without trials and difficult situations. Several years after the Shunammite woman was blessed with her son, the boy grew very sick. Sadly, he died in his mother's arms.

The woman went straight to Elisha. She didn't call a doctor first. She didn't even tell her husband. She knew that her son was a miracle from the Lord, and if the Lord could not bring him back, then no one could.

When she found Elisha, the woman fell at his feet. She cried out to Elisha about her son. She refused to leave Elisha until he came home with her. Her actions gave proof that she believed God was able to perform a miracle.



*Elisha went into the room. He shut the door. He was alone with the boy. **He prayed to the Lord.** - 2 Kings 4:33*

Then Elisha spread out over the boy, and the boy's body began to get warm. Elisha walked back and forth across the floor. Then he returned to the boy and spread out over him again. The boy sneezed seven times, and then opened his eyes!

Elisha called for the boy's mother. When she came, Elisha said, "Take your son." She came in and fell at Elisha's feet. Her heart was overflowing with gratitude.



Just like the Shunammite woman, you can put your trust in the only giver of new life. Take your cares to the Lord before going to anyone else. He will ALWAYS do what is best for you.