

DOING GOOD

II Kings 4

Let us be committed to doing good works.

I. ASSISTING A DEPERATE WIDOW (1-7)

A. HER CONDITION (1)

- Note that she makes her needs known

1. Her God-fearing husband has died
2. An insensitive creditor is threatening

B. ELISHA'S INTERVENTION (2-4)

1. Offering help (2)
2. Providing instructions (3-4)

C. GOD'S PROVISIONS (5-7)

1. Potential: Using what she had (2)
2. Proportional: Giving her according to the vessels she had collected
3. Proper: Stopping the flow when no more empty vessels were available > No waste! (6b)
4. Practical: Giving her something easily sellable and useable to sustain her household (7)

D. HER ATTITUDE (7a)

1. Gratitude and not greed
2. Perhaps asking him what to do with what she had received

II. PROVIDING FOR A CHILDLESS BENEFACTOR (8-37)

A. HER HOSPITALITY (8-10)

1. Meals for a passerby (8)
2. Lodging for a holy man of God (9-10)

B. ELISHA'S APPRECIATION (11-17)

1. His offer (11-13a) > What can I do for you?
2. Her answer (13b) > I am content
3. Gehazi's suggestion (14)
4. Elisha's promise (15-16)
5. Her blessing (17)

Over please >

C. HER CRISIS (18-31)

1. Death: The child dies (18-20)
2. Determination: Rushing out to find Elisha (21-25a)
3. Desperation: Needing to confront Elisha (25b-28)
4. Intervention: Elisha agrees to assist her (29-31)

D. ELISHA'S AID (32-37)

1. Prayer (32-33)
2. Contact (34-35a)
3. Restoration (35b-36)

F. HER GRATITUDE (37)

III. GIVING FOOD TO THE FAMISHED (38-44)

A. STARVING PROPHETS

1. The prophets anticipate provisions (38)
2. Their stew is poisoned (39-40)
3. Elisha neutralizes the poison (41)

B. 100 HUNGRY MEN (42-44)

1. The Gift (42) > Given to Elisha but then given away
2. The Objection (43) > This will not be enough to feed them
3. The Miracle (44) > There was more than enough!

IV. SOME OBSERVATIONS

A. ABOUT ELISHA

1. He was available when needed
2. By seeking to do good, God sometimes provides more than enough (See especially vs. 7 & 44)
3. This prophet was sensitive to those in need and offered them help
 - Sympathy (2), thoughtfulness (13), prayerfulness (32-33), and unselfishness (42)

B. FOR US

1. Be Available
 - We should use our gifts to the fullest extent to minister to others
2. Do what you can (8-10) > Realizing some can do more than others
3. Delight in surprises (13-17) > Sometimes God gives us things we're afraid to ask for
4. Do good works! - Titus 3:1, 8, 14

CONCLUSION:

Let us, like Elisha, be busy doing good.