

**EDITED AND
ABRIDGED
DRAMATIZED
STORY**

**FROM A SERMON
OF
REV. WILLIAM
BRANHAM**

ELISHA



PICTURE CREDIT: SWEET PUBLISHING

Elisha the Prophet

Elisha had to pass through a little place called Shunem. It's not very well mentioned in the Bible. I think over in Joshua when they were dividing the lands, they mentioned where this little place, Shunem, was. But in every little spot, God's going to have a witness somewhere.

So there happened to be a real lady who lived up there in Shunem. She was a loyal woman - a real lady, and her husband was an elderly man. It came to pass that Elisha, when he would go through on the road up, he had to pass through Shunem in order to get to Mount Carmel. Now, Elisha had a special

cave up there in Mount Carmel, where he went to pray. He went up there at the new moon and on Sabbath to pray.

Well, he wasn't very well wanted in the city, I suppose, for this woman must have seen him as he passed through and seen him rejected. Shunem was just about as far up as he could get in his journey, and he'd have to stay there overnight. So he would rest there, maybe in the streets, or in the woods, or in the fields somewhere as he passed by, and maybe sometimes without food.

This good woman as she went up into the city, quickly she spotted this man and knew that he was a holy man. She was a Shunammite; yet in her heart, she was a believer. No matter where the person is that is a believer, God in some way will get the true Message to them just as certain as He's God. He will put an ache on somebody's heart somewhere, they'll write to them, they'll hear a testimony, turn the radio, or

something another; they'll hear the true Message. God will grant that to them.

And this woman, maybe, let's say, one day, she went up in the street and she heard someone preaching on the street corner. She saw him rejected, and she knew he was a servant of God.

So I can imagine after Elisha got through preaching, she said, "Kind sir, would you go and meet my husband? I will fix you all some lunch, right away."

Well, I can hear Elisha say, "Thank you, ma'am. I'll be glad to do that, for I'm a bit hungry after the message." So down to the house they went. She went in and introduced her husband to this prophet and Gehazi, his servant. She made some cakes ready right quick, and some little dainties, some little cookies, and so forth.

Maybe this woman set a plate full on the table, and Elisha had a real jubilee. He

thanked the woman for it, and time after time he passed by.

So the good woman was inspired to do something for this man. I can hear her say one day to her husband, “Now look, dear, we can do this. We have plenty. We have great farms, and so forth, and we’re able to do this. Now, we are both believers in Jehovah, and this is His servant. Now, let’s do something nice for him, and in doing for him, we’ll be doing for Jehovah. After all, you’re getting aged, and I’m in the middle age; so it won’t be long till it’ll all fall somewhere; and we have no children or nothing for it to go to. So let’s just do something nice for Jehovah by entertaining His prophet; for I perceive that he is a holy man, and he passes this way.” She called him “the man of God,” for she had seen God working in him, and she knew that God was in this prophet, and she wanted to give respects to God. The only way she could give respects to God was to respect the servant of God.

And so, this woman had seen God in Elisha, and she said, “I think it’s nice, now, if we do something for this servant of God. God will respect it.”

Why, she was just a few hundred years ahead of time. Jesus said, “If you give one of My disciples a cup of cold water, at the judgment it won’t be forgotten.”

We fail to see the power that God has placed in His people. God is in His people. You believe that? God was with His people one time when He walked on earth. But now, God is in His people. “A little while, and the world sees Me no more, yet you’ll see Me, for I will be with you and in you to the end of the world.”

This woman - her motives, her clear, pure mind and her heart’s desire was to do something for God, and the way she could do it was to help this man of God. She knew he was a man of God. So she said, “I pray thee, my husband, let us do something nice for the man.”

Well, they said, “What would it be?”

“Let’s go get the carpenter, or the contractor, and let’s build him a little room by the side of our house, by the wall, that when he comes by he can call it his own. Just let him have it. And let’s put in a little stool and a bed and a table.”

Little did she know that she was building the tomb of her own child; and was building a place where she’d see the most wonderful thing that ever took place for that day.

Her husband said, “Dear, I believe that would be just right.” So they got the carpenter, went together, and came up and built this nice little room on the side.

Well, Elisha came by one day, and I can imagine seeing how she fixed it up. Could you imagine? That little woman, like a little Dorcas or something, she goes up there, and I can see her just polish the floors with the old scrub brush, you know, till the pine

boards just shined. And I can see her fix this little stool here and put a little pad on it.

She said, “He will be so tired, this servant of God, when he comes by. I’ll tell you what I’m going to do. I’m going to make the bed just as soft with feathers as I can, and make it just as nice, and put a nice straw tick or something beneath it. And I’m going to have it just as nice as it can be for this servant of God. I’m going to come up every day. I’m going shine up the window and I’ll bring him a little bouquet of flowers every day and set it on there, in case he comes by, and I’ll put a little welcome mat at the door. I’m going to tack a little speech on the side of the door, and say, ‘Dear humble servant of God, this is my gratitude towards God. I give this, in God’s Name, to you.’”

One day, Elisha came by. I’d imagine the flower in the room was blooming so prettily. She’d go out early in the morning and pick them, you know.

I can see her pick a nice bouquet this particular morning, of honeysuckles and stick it on the room.

She said, “Oh, I trust that the man of God may be by today.” She cleaned up his little place and shut the door and pinned it on.

After a while, a weary, tired prophet comes up the road, his feet sore, dragging a little staff along, a little cruse of oil by his side.

Well, I can hear him say, “Gehazi, you know, son, our Shunammite friends there, they built a little room out there. I wonder if they’ve had somebody come to stay with them? I just wonder why that room’s built?”

Gehazi said, “Say, master, there’s a little note on the door. Oh, maybe someone else owns it. Let’s go see.”

Elisha goes over and reads: “Dear servant of God, we thought it good in the sight of God to do this, in the Name of God, for you. And we hope that you enjoy your stay each time. If we can be of any further service or blessing

and help to you, just let us know. We are at your service.”

When he reads that, I can see a tear trickle down old Gehazi’s cheek like that, and say, “Oh, isn’t it wonderful.”

Elisha looked down there, and said, “Look at the doormat, ‘Welcome.’ Now, isn’t that just fine? You know, Gehazi, I feel just as welcome to go in here as if I’d built it myself.”

So, he goes in and said, “Now, looky here.”

Elisha stretched himself out upon this bed, and took off his sandals. Gehazi took his staff and set it in the corner, poured a little water out, and gave him a rag to wash his dusty face. Oh, the prophet was so blessed. He laid there.

I can hear him say, “Gehazi, go, call this Shunammite. But first, ’fore you go, let me smell those honeysuckles.” And my, that blessed his soul. He set it down and went and called; and she stood at her door.

He said, “Ask her if I could speak to the chief captain for her, because he’s a bosom friend of mine. I wonder if I could speak to the king, or the mayor of the city? I know them. Maybe I could speak to them for her. What could I do to repay this?”

“Oh,” she said, “nothing, nothing. Think nothing of it, because it’s just a little token of love to God that I give to you.”

Gehazi came back bringing the message.

Elisha said, “Gehazi, what could we do for her? For all this kindness, surely there should be something.”

About that time, Gehazi said, “Well, master, she has no children. And you know what? Her husband’s an old man.”

I can see a vision forming in front of Elisha. He said, “Go tell her to come here just a minute. I want to talk to her.”

She stood at the door, and he said, “According to the time of life, this time next year you’ll embrace a son.”

“How do you know, Elisha?”

“I done seen him. He will be here.”

The spirit of Elijah still lives. Sure it does. It’s still the Spirit of God. It wasn’t Elisha, it was God.

“About this time next year, according to the time of life, you will have a son.”

She said, “Oh, don’t lie to me, man of God.”

And he said, “Well, you just go.” In other words, “And you’ll see. Just go on.” Because he’d already seen the vision. It was all over.

So then, just about the time of life, she embraced a child. Oh, how happy she was. Her husband, an old man, and her middle-aged, and here they had a lovely little child. What a blessing a child is to a home. How it brightens up everything.

Now, watch this little fellow. Oh, I can imagine this little Shunammite boy as he jumped over the chairs, and pulled off all those things and everything. But, oh, it was all right; that was a boy, their only child. I know what it is, I got one. And so, he'd just go on, and Daddy, when he came in from the field at night, he'd grab the little fellow and bounce him up and down. Oh, how could you not love a little fellow like that?

Here was this little fellow just jumping and romping and playing. Soon he got big enough to go out in the field with his daddy. So he goes out in the field and is playing around there one day. Now, I believe he got sunstroke. It acted like it.

He began to say, "Oh, my head," at about eleven o'clock in the day, "oh, my head, my head." They didn't have air conditioning in that day like they have now.

He had a servant that set the little boy on a mule and took him up to his mother. She put him on her lap and began to rock him and do

everything she could for him. At about noon, he died.

Now talk about a dark hour. What would you have done? The darkest hour that ever struck her life. What happened? It was the midnight stroke. You know what a lot of us would've done? There would have been wailing and screaming and crying and going on. That's what we would have done. But not her, she was a woman of faith. Do you know what she did? She called on that God that she loved.

An inspiration that led her to do a favour for the prophet, said "Take that baby and lay him on that prophet's bed where he slept." What a place to take him. Just exactly right.

So I can see her pick the little fellow up in her arms and kiss him, brush his little curly hair back like that, and walk out to the outside. The father following her was screaming to the top of his voice, and all the neighbors were wailing - her walking quietly, a tear running down once in a while. But it wasn't all finished yet.

It would have been if she'd have had no hopes. But there was Something inside of her. She knew how she got him. She knew the lips that spoke him there. She knew there was a God of Heaven, as Daniel said, "There is a God of Heaven," and she held the little fellow. Now, if she had felt like it was all over, it would have been all over. But down in her heart there was Something moving. When all hope was gone, Something began to move.

I can see her walking out through that little rose garden, down the little path, over to the little corner, and open up the door. The welcome mat she stepped over, where this man of God had stepped over, and laid the little fellow down, got Elisha's pillow, where that holy man of God had laid, and stuck it back under his little head, and put a little blanket up over his face.

She walked back out, where everybody's screaming and going on, and she said, "Saddle me a mule, and drive, and let's go to

Mount Carmel as fast as we can go. And don't you stop 'less I tell you to stop."

"Oh," her husband said, "it's neither new moon or sabbath. The prophet only passes through here on those certain days, he goes up there to fast and pray, up in that little cave. There's no need of going."

She said, "All is well."

What was it? Something in her heart told her Elisha was there. It just won't fool you; that's all. It's Divine revelation. The same thing that said, "Fix this for this holy man; give this holy man this nice little place and fix it," that same revelation was pouring through her, the same power was saying, "Elisha's up there; go get him."

She said, "Now, it's all right." I can see her husband put that little side-saddle on, and he helped her as she put her little teeny foot up in there, and lifted her up. She set on the little donkey and pulled a little shawl across her face, kissed him good-bye, and brushed

his tear back, and said, “Now, Dad, don’t you cry. Don’t you cry.”

“Mother, what’s the matter?”

“Don’t you cry. Don’t you cry.”

“Well, how you taking it so lightly?”

“Dear, my heart feels the same as yours, but there’s something happened. There’s Something in me that tells me I must see the man of God right away.”

She said to the servant (they led the mules, of course), “Now, you run along in front and don’t you even stop or check up ‘less I tell you to.”

On up she went. I can see her going around, just trotting on this little mule, singing the praises of God.

Old Elisha set back there. He had been reading the scroll down of all that had taken place. Gehazi was setting at the door, nodding. I can see Elisha rub his eyes and look out. He said, “Gehazi.”

“Yes, master.” He jumped up.

“Here comes that Shunammite. Go see what she wants. Ask her if everything’s well with her, and her husband, and her child.”

So Gehazi went out a little piece, and said, “Is all well with thee? Is all well with thy husband? Is all well with the child?”

She said, “All is well. Everything’s all right.”

Oh, my. If that isn’t casting down reasonings. But she got what she asked for.

She said, “Everything’s all right. Everything’s just perfectly all right.”

So she ran up to him, jumped off the little side-saddle. The little fellow turned the little donkey around to start back.

Elisha said, “Now, her heart’s all broke about something because I can see that tear in her eye. But, you know, God tells me a whole lot of things, but He doesn’t tell me everything.”

God doesn't tell His prophets everything. No, just as He will.

He said, "Now, her heart's broke, and she's all upset about something. But I don't know what it is."

So she began to reveal it to him and to tell him what had happened.

Well, Elisha said, "Now, wait a minute. There's no vision, what am I going to do? I haven't seen anything. I don't know what to say. But I know one thing: There's a God of Heaven that lives. That's one thing. And I know that when I had the anointing on me a many time, when I'd walk, this old stick coming along up through that desert, the anointing was on me. So, Gehazi, you're my servant. I want you to gird up your loins right quick - put on the whole armour. And I want you to take this stick that I've been walking on; it's blessed. I want you to go lay it on the child, and if anybody tries to stop you, don't pay any attention to them."

He said, “Don’t you say anything, but take this message.”

So the boy started off with the stick. But you know, the woman’s faith: she didn’t know about God being in that stick, but she knew God was in that prophet.

She said, “As the Lord your God lives, you holy man of God, I’m not going to leave you. I’m going to stay right with you and see what you’re going to do.”

She had a vision, as it was, or a revelation, that Elisha had something for her. She was going to stay till that she had seen it through, and said, “As the Lord God lives, I’ll not leave you.”

Elisha said, “Well, I guess if I can’t get rid of you any other way, I’ll put on my shoes and take off.” So he slipped on his sandals, and here he came with the woman.

Look at this sight. Here’s a little dark boy running along with a stick in his hand.

Everybody was saying, “Hello, Gehazi. How’s Elisha this morning?”

Some of them said, “Hey, what you got that stick in your hand for?”

I can just hear him say in his heart, “I ain’t going to tell you old unbeliever anyhow.” So he just kept on going. “I got a work to do.” Just keep on.

Well, after a while, coming across the hill, here came this woman holding to Elisha. I can see the father standing out there, saying, “Oh, here she comes. Here she comes.”

The young fellow could outrun them both. So he went in and laid the stick on the child, said, “Here, we’ll see if it works. No, no, I don’t believe it’s going to work. Now, let’s see. Now, let me, just a minute—just a minute. Now, is he going to...Oh, there comes Elisha anyhow. Now, just a minute. I don’t think it’s going to work.”

So he grabbed up the stick again and ran to meet him. He said, “It didn’t work.”

Here came Elisha. Now, look what a scene. Here Elisha walks in, the neighbours are all screaming and crying. Here was a defeated servant standing, saying, “Well, my master told me to do this, but his word sure failed. That goes to show he’s a man. That’s all there is to it.” And here came Elisha up, no vision or nothing else to work on.

Here was a woman with faith in her heart. I can see Elisha look over, and say, “Well, if I haven’t got much, I can work with yours.” That’s the way. “I’ll go up on your revelation.”

He walked up to the house. The father ran and said, “Oh, holy man of God. Oh, my poor little boy has been dead now for several hours. Oh, holy man of God...”

I can hear him say, “Shhh. Stand still.” He tells her, said, “Now, just stay right out here, now, and be in prayer.” He walked up to the door, like he had before, opened up the door, looked down, and saw that welcome mat. Opened up the door and looked in there,

well, there's another bunch of honeysuckle setting there.

Look, laying on the bed, there's a little form laying under a sheet. I can see him pull that back and look, and say, "Well, that poor little fellow." His eyes are set, his mouth's open. He's stiff. He's cold.

Elisha said, "Lord, I don't know what to do." He goes over and kneels down, and says, "Now, Father, what can I do?" The sky is as brass - not a thing. Then he gets up, and he walks back and forth. And he goes over, and all at once he happened to think of something. Now, God lives in man. "If they lay their hands on the sick, for I will be with them, in them. If they lay their hands on the sick, they shall recover."

God in Elisha, he knew the visions he had was God. He knew that the inspiration in his heart was God. God dwelt in him. So he had a revelation. He went over, he stretched the little boy's hands out, lay his hands on his

hands, his nose on his nose, his forehead against his, and laid there just a minute.

He got up and said, “Lord, I don’t know.” He laid his hands down, the little boy got warm. He said, “Well...” He got out, and walked back and forth again, “I don’t know what to do.”

After while, the revelation said, “Do the same thing again.” So he went and lay his face against the little boy’s face, his lips against the little boy’s lips. And when he did that, the Spirit of God in that man was projected into that child, and he sneezed seven times and came to life.

God has never changed. He is just the same God now, that He was then. The God of Elijah, the God of Moses, the God of Abraham, the God of the Lord Jesus is right here with us, in the form of the Holy Ghost. The only thing it is with you people and I - we don’t have faith to call Him into action. If your faith will be quickened, and will move out and have every shadow taken away from

it, God will do the miracles that He did in the days gone by.

I wonder, just now, if some of you here are a worse type of dead than that little boy was? That little boy was physically dead. I wonder if you have been spiritually dead to these things, and never believed it before. But there's something strangely that you feel that you ought to, "Something in my heart tells me that this Bible is right; that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. And I realize that I'm a mortal man or woman, boy or girl and I've got to stand in His Presence. And right now is my time to make my decision that I'll accept Him as my personal Saviour and receive Eternal Life, while He puts His hands on my hands and His speared heart pressing against my sinful heart, and ask Him to take all sin and to bring me to Life again."

Will you raise up your hand? And by doing that, say, "Brother Branham, remember me in prayer when you call."

“I now want Jesus to take me and embrace me to His bosom.” When all the Spirit of God that worked through Joseph, through Abraham, through Isaac, through Jacob, Joseph, Elijah, Moses, all the prophets, and then, finally, wound up in the full Godhead bodily in the Lord Jesus. He projects It out and that’s His Spirit standing at your heart’s door.

“And Lord, that You’re passing by my way, I want to lay out a welcome mat at my little door. And I want to enlighten my thoughts with the perfume of the Lily of the Valley. I want You to come in and make Your stay in with me. Abide with me, Lord, for someday I’m going to be physically gone, and only You and Your embrace can call me back to a life again. And I now accept You in Your program, and, by God’s grace, I’ll love You and stay with You, and serve You as long as I live.”

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