

Elijah and Elisha

#15, oil reserves and hospitality – II Kings 4:1-17

The loss of a husband can cause difficult problems for any widow. Since the Widows in Israel did not have any government benefits to help them, they needed to rely on neighbors or whom ever. In this lesson we follow Elisha as the Lord led him to minister to women.

1 Now a certain woman of the wives of the sons of the prophets cried out to Elisha, "Your servant my husband is dead, and you know that your servant feared the Lord; and the creditor has come to take my two children to be his slaves."

2 Elisha said to her, "What shall I do for you? Tell me, what do you have in the house?" And she said, "Your maidservant has nothing in the house except a jar of oil."

3 Then he said, "Go, borrow vessels at large for yourself from all your neighbors, even empty vessels; do not get a few.

[1.] v:1, my husband is dead, From this verse we can conclude that:

- a) the woman's husband was killed by Jezebel.
- b) the woman's husband died a natural death.
- c) the woman's husband died because of the bad water in Jericho (I Ki 2:19-22).
- d) there is not enough information as to how the prophet died.

[2.] v:1 again, The woman owed money to a creditor. When she couldn't pay, what was the creditor going to do?

[3.] v:1 again, How would the knowledge, that their mother refused to sell them, affect the children through out their life?

[4.] v:2, Tell me, We know that the only thing of value the woman had was her children however, she did have something else. What was it?

[5.] v:3, Go, What did Elisha instruct the woman to do?

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4 "And you shall go in and shut the door behind you and your sons, and pour out into all these vessels, and you shall set aside what is full." 5 So she went from him and shut the door behind her and her sons; they were bringing the vessels to her and she poured.



6 When the vessels were full, she said to her son, "Bring me another vessel." And he said to her, "There is not one vessel more." And the oil stopped.

[6.] v:3 again, not get a few, In your own words, jot down the meaning of this phrase?

[7.] v:4-5, pour, According to these verses, what were the woman and her sons doing.

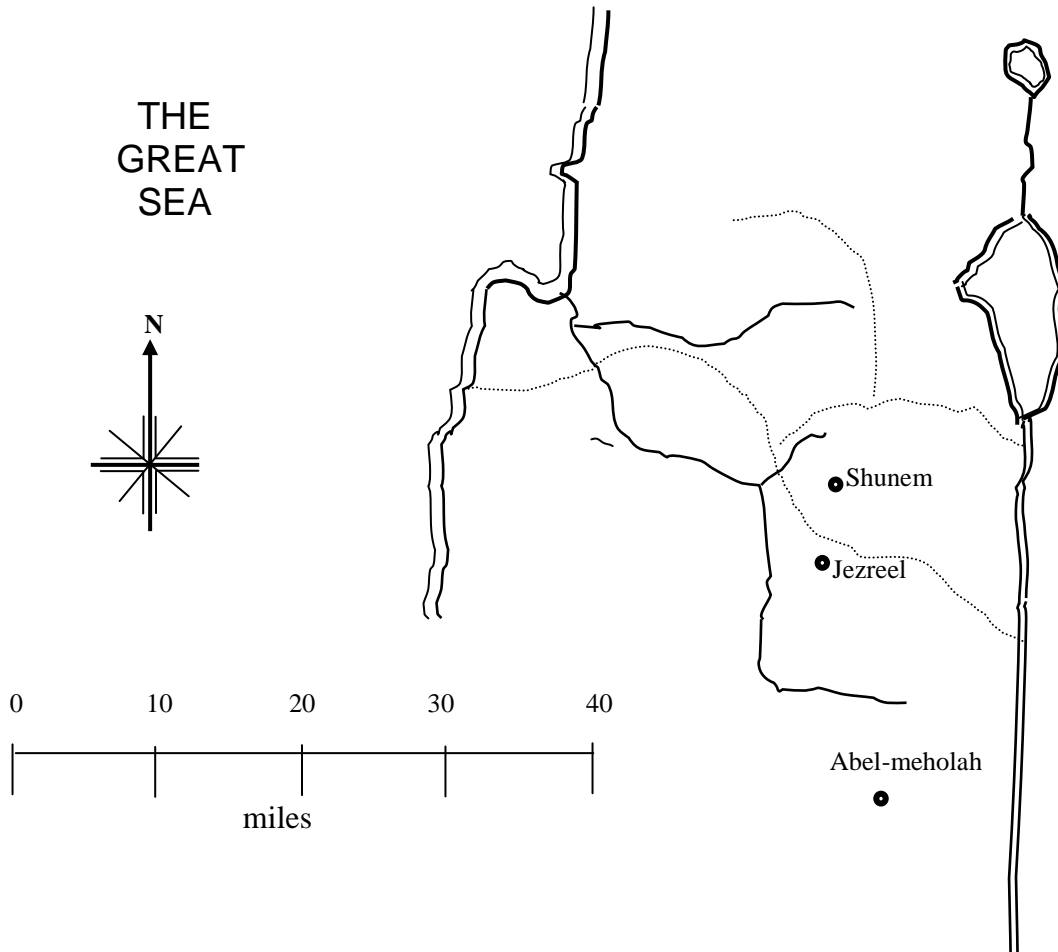
[8.] v:6, the oil stopped, How long did the original oil last?

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7 Then she came and told the man of God. And he said, "Go, sell the oil and pay your debt, and you and your sons can live on the rest."

[9.] v:7, sell the oil, With reference to the original debt, how valuable was the excess oil?



8 Now there came a day when Elisha passed over to Shunem, where there was a prominent woman, and she persuaded him to eat food. And so it was, as often as he passed by, he turned in there to eat food.

[10.] v:8, Shunem, Looking at the a map, how far was this place from Elisha's home town?

[11.] v:8 again, persuaded him to eat, List your impressions of this woman?

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9 She said to her husband, "Behold now, I perceive that this is a holy man of God passing by us continually.

10 "Please, let us make a little walled upper chamber and let us set a bed for him there, and a table and a chair and a lampstand; and it shall be, when he comes to us, that he can turn in there."

11 One day he came there and turned in to the upper chamber and rested. 12 Then he said to Gehazi his servant, "Call this Shunammite." And when he had called her, she stood before him.

13 He said to him (**Gehazi**), "Say now to her, 'Behold, you have been careful for us with all this care; what can I do for you? Would you be spoken for to the king or to the captain of the army?'" And she answered, "I live among my own people."

[12.] v:9, holy man of God, **How might she have come to this conclusion?**

[13.] v:9 again, holy man of God, **As Christians, what identifies you and me as holy men?**

[14.] v:10, when he comes to us, **For Elisha, what's really helpful about this plan?**

[15.] v:11-12, Gehazi, **In order to do that job, what kind of person would the servant have to be?**

[16.] **As servants of the Lord, what kind of people should we be?**

[17.] v:13, be spoken for, **Elisha, having the attention of "high offices" could offer the woman a very good position. Where would the woman have to live in order to work in those positions?**

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14 So he said, "What then is to be done for her?" And Gehazi answered, "Truly she has no son and her husband is old."

15 He said, "Call her." When he had called her, she stood in the doorway. 16 Then he said, "At this season next year you will embrace a son." And she said, "No, my lord, O man of God, do not lie to your maidservant."

17 The woman conceived and bore a son at that season the next year, as Elisha had said to her.

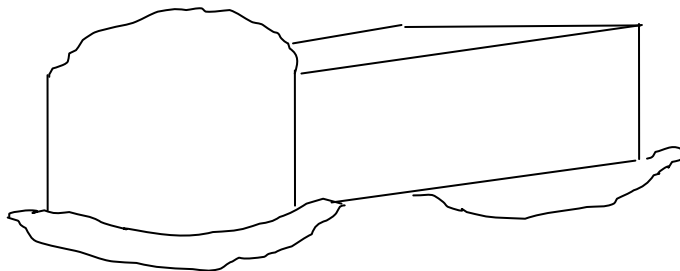
[18.] v:14, she has no son In the woman's older years, why would this be a very important factor?

[19.] v:15-16, next year, What did Elisha promise the woman?

[20.] Question [17.], What was the woman's first reaction to Elisha's promise?

[21.] v:17, as Elisha had said, How can we prove that Elisha was a true prophet?

[22.] Anyone can claim that they are a prophet! How does scripture (Ezekiel 13:1-16) prove or disprove their claim?



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