

Faith in the Face of Death

II Kings 4:8-37

A beautiful example of hospitality—God rewards with a son. 8-17

- A wealthy woman's kindness to the traveling prophet, cf. Lk. 8:1-3. would make Jesus proud (Mtt. 10:41,42) and deserves a reward.
- What do you give the woman who has everything? Gen. 18:12-14
- Elisha's desire to appeal to the king for her is later an issue, 8:1-6.

A baffling death—God appears to take back His reward. 18-31

- Note her intriguing actions: (1) Boy put on Elisha's bed, (2) She brushes off husband, (3) Brushes off Gehazi (2x *shalom*), (4) She ties into Elisha and repeats his non-budging attitude in 2:2,4,6.
- She (as we can be) is perplexed by God. Her clinging = ?
- Elisha seems baffled but takes responsibility as Elijah, I Kgs. 17:20.

A boy raised—God responds to a woman's tenacious faith. 32-37

- Elisha fails in attempt through Gehazi, as later in Mtt. 17:14-20.
- Elisha succeeds in attempt like Elijah, as earlier in I Kgs 17:21-23.

See Hebrews 11:35a for how Scripture views the stubborn faith of this woman.

Have you ever felt the sting of heartache and wondered what God was up to?

How must we respond?

