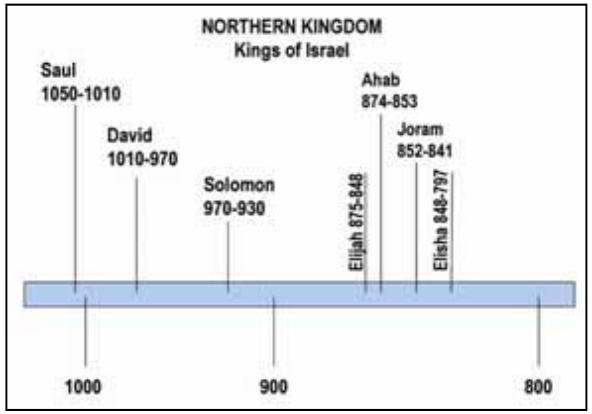
God Speaks

"Trust Boldly"

2 Kings 4:8-37 (New Living Translation)

June 25-26, 2011



I. Trust God with your resources

8 One day Elisha went to the town of Shunem. A wealthy woman lived
there, and she urged him to come to her home for a meal. After that,
whenever he passed that way, he would stop there for something to eat.
9 She said to her husband, "I am sure this man who stops in from time to
time is a holy man of God. 10 Let's build a small room for him on the roof
and furnish it with a bed, a table, a chair, and a lamp. Then he will have a
place to stay whenever he comes by."
11 One day Elisha returned to Shunem, and he went up to this upper
room to rest. 12 He said to his servant Gehazi, "Tell the woman from
Shunem I want to speak to her." When she appeared, 13 Elisha said to
Gehazi, "Tell her, 'We appreciate the kind concern you have shown us.
What can we do for you? Can we put in a good word for you to the king
or to the commander of the army?'"
"No," she replied, "my family takes good care of me."
14 Later Elisha asked Gehazi, "What can we do for her?"
Gehazi replied, "She doesn't have a son, and her husband is an old
man."

What holds you back from trusting God?
-Fear or anxiety
-Inadequacy or self-doubt
-Control

SERMON NOTES

II. Trust God with your pain and questions

27 But when she came to the man of God at the mountain, she fell to the
ground before him and caught hold of his feet. Gehazi began to push her
away, but the man of God said, "Leave her alone. She is deeply troubled,
but the LORD has not told me what it is."

What about times in our lives when appeals get denied and loved ones don't heal (at least not in our lifetime), when life is not spared?

III. Trust God with your future

25 As she approached the man of God at Mount Carmel, Elisha saw her
in the distance. He said to Gehazi, "Look, the woman from Shunem is
coming. 26 Run out to meet her and ask her, 'Is everything all right
(shalom) with you, your husband, and your child?'"
"Yes," the woman told Gehazi, "everything is fine (shalom)."

"It is Well with My Soul" – The hymn was written by a Presbyterian lawyer and successful businessman, Horatio Gates Spafford (1828-1888) and composed by Philip P. Bliss (1838-1876). Mr. Spafford suffered unimaginable personal tragedies and sorrows, including the loss of his only son from scarlet fever at the age of four, the loss of all he owned in the great Chicago Fire, followed closely by the loss of all four daughters in 1873. The words to this hymn came from 2 Kings 4:23, 26. They echo the response of the Shunammite woman to the sudden death of her only child.

SERMON NOTES

2 Kings 4:15-37 (New Living Translation)

15 “Call her back again,” Elisha told him. When the woman returned,
Elisha said to her as she stood in the doorway, 16 “Next year at this time
you will be holding a son in your arms!”
“No, my lord!” she cried. “O man of God, don’t deceive me and get my
hopes up like that.”
17 But sure enough, the woman soon became pregnant. And at that time
the following year she had a son, just as Elisha had said.
18 One day when her child was older, he went out to help his father, who
was working with the harvesters. 19 Suddenly he cried out, “My head
hurts! My head hurts!”
His father said to one of the servants, “Carry him home to his mother.”
20 So the servant took him home, and his mother held him on her lap.
But around noontime he died. 21 She carried him up and laid him on the
bed of the man of God, then shut the door and left him there. 22 She sent
a message to her husband: “Send one of the servants and a donkey so
that I can hurry to the man of God and come right back.”
23 “Why go today?” he asked. “It is neither a new moon festival nor a
Sabbath.”
But she said, “It will be all right.”
24 So she saddled the donkey and said to the servant, “Hurry! Don’t slow
down unless I tell you to.”
25 As she approached the man of God at Mount Carmel, Elisha saw her
in the distance. He said to Gehazi, “Look, the woman from Shunem is
coming. 26 Run out to meet her and ask her, ‘Is everything all right
(shalom) with you, your husband, and your child?’”
“Yes,” the woman told Gehazi, “everything is fine (shalom).”
27 But when she came to the man of God at the mountain, she fell to the
ground before him and caught hold of his feet. Gehazi began to push her
away, but the man of God said, “Leave her alone. She is deeply troubled,
but the LORD has not told me what it is.”
28 Then she said, “Did I ask you for a son, my lord? And didn’t I say,
‘Don’t deceive me and get my hopes up’?”
29 Then Elisha said to Gehazi, “Get ready to travel; take my staff and go!
Don’t talk to anyone along the way. Go quickly and lay the staff on the
child’s face.”
30 But the boy’s mother said, “As surely as the LORD lives and you
yourself live, I won’t go home unless you go with me.” So Elisha returned
with her.
31 Gehazi hurried on ahead and laid the staff on the child’s face, but
nothing happened. There was no sign of life. He returned to meet Elisha
and told him, “The child is still dead.”
32 When Elisha arrived, the child was indeed dead, lying there on the
prophet’s bed. 33 He went in alone and shut the door behind him and
prayed to the LORD. 34 Then he lay down on the child’s body, placing his
mouth on the child’s mouth, his eyes on the child’s eyes, and his hands
on the child’s hands. And as he stretched out on him, the child’s body
began to grow warm again! 35 Elisha got up, walked back and forth
across the room once, and then stretched himself out again on the child.
This time the boy sneezed seven times and opened his eyes!
36 Then Elisha summoned Gehazi. “Call the child’s mother!” he said. And
when she came in, Elisha said, “Here, take your son!” 37 She fell at his
feet and bowed before him, overwhelmed with gratitude. Then she took
her son in her arms and carried him downstairs.