

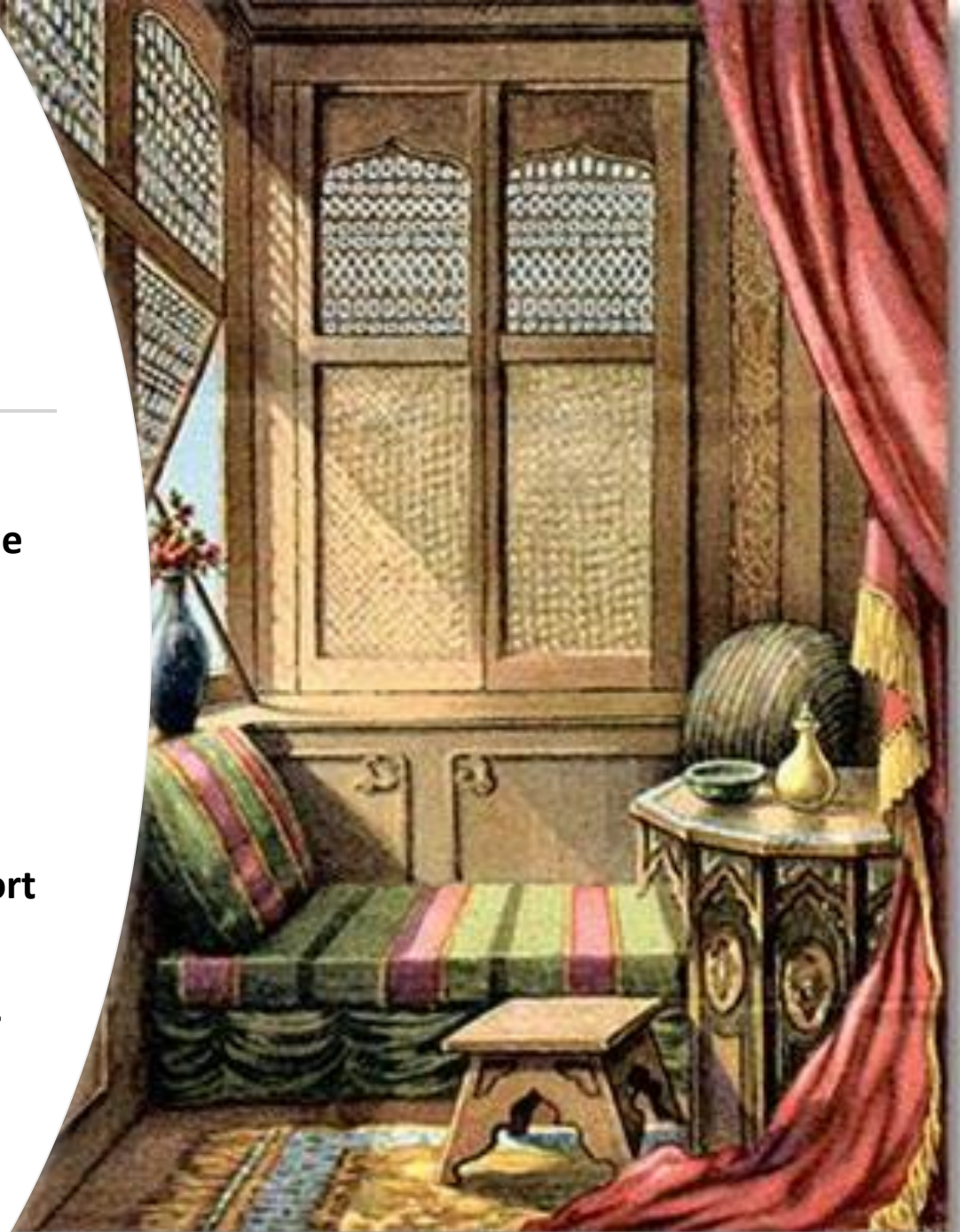
What Are Your
Stories Of
Great Things?
2 Kings 8:4-6



We're Marching Through 2 Kings!

- In 2 Kings 4, verse 8 we meet a woman from the land of Shunem who was married and somewhat financially stable
- Elisha made friends with her; and after eating with her on several occasions, when he was in town, she and her husband renovated their home and built a small room complete with bed, a desk, and a lamp that he could use when he came by, verse 10
- In verse 13, Elisha thanks her for going out of her way to bring comfort to him, and in return asks what he could do for her to show his appreciation (a word to the king, or to the army commander)

It's good to live a life of good reputation that can be advantageous to others that you love; Hebrews 13:2



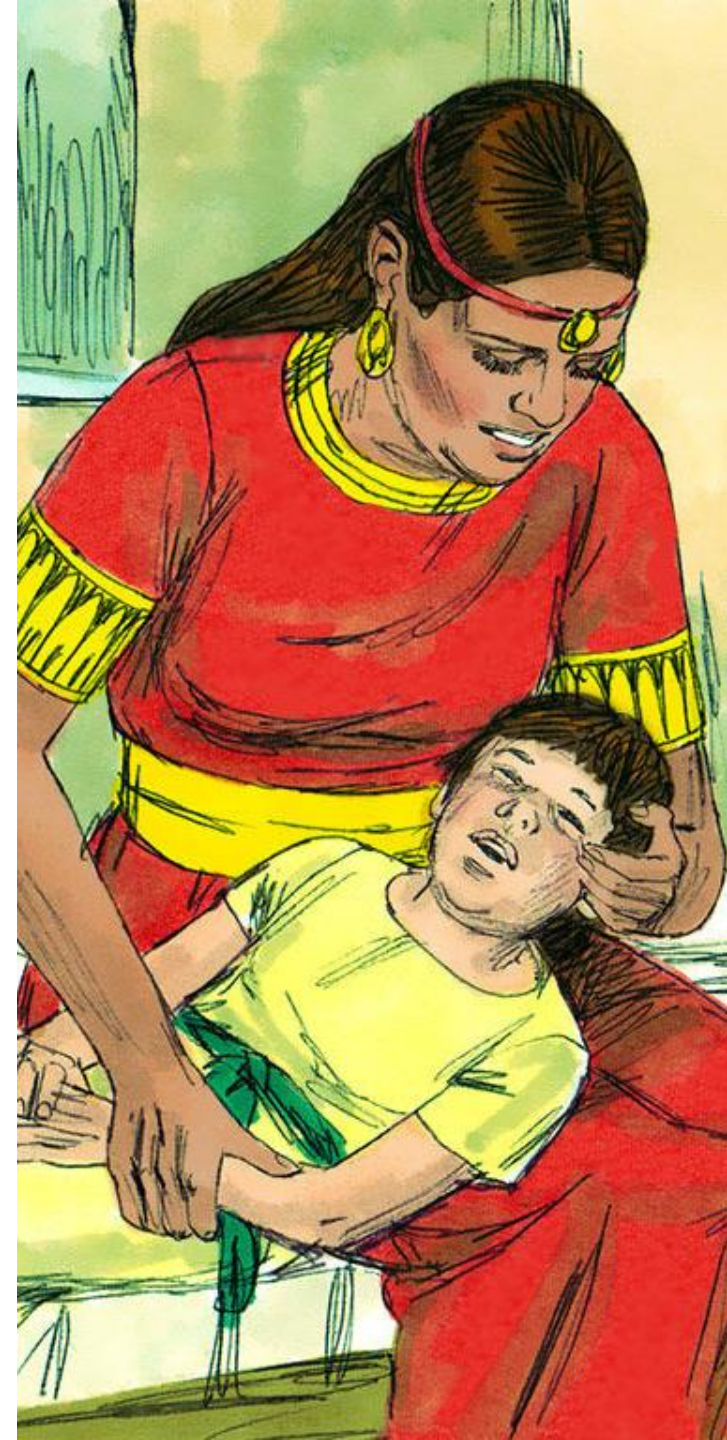
Observations

- **The woman says that she doesn't need anything and that her family takes good care of her**
- **Elisha's assistant, Gehazi, notes to Elisha that her husband is an old man, and that she has no child or heir.**
- **Elisha then tells the woman that in a year she would have a son**
- **She reacted emotionally, telling Elisha not to play with her dreams and fantasies, but he didn't. The next year she had an infant son**
- **This woman's life should remind us that in living a life for God, disappointments may still come your way**

You may also have to deal with issues that are non-issues with others, even though you are a Christian

Her Son Gets Sick!

- One day while his father is working in the field, the boy comes to his father with a bad, bad headache, verse 18
- They carried the child to his mother and his mother took him, but he died in her lap. Eventually, she laid him on the guest bed of Elisha
- She decides to go and find Elisha, and after a distressful greeting, Elisha sends his servant Gehazi ahead of him to the woman's house with instructions to lay Elisha's staff across the boy's face



Observations

- **Gehazi goes on ahead to execute his mission, which I believe flattered his self importance and corresponded to his carnal zeal; he obeyed instructions but with no success**
- **The Point: To go on the great errand of life (our spiritual walk) with no better qualification than *“I bear the prophet’s staff,”* is a big mistake (using outward means to denote spiritual results)**

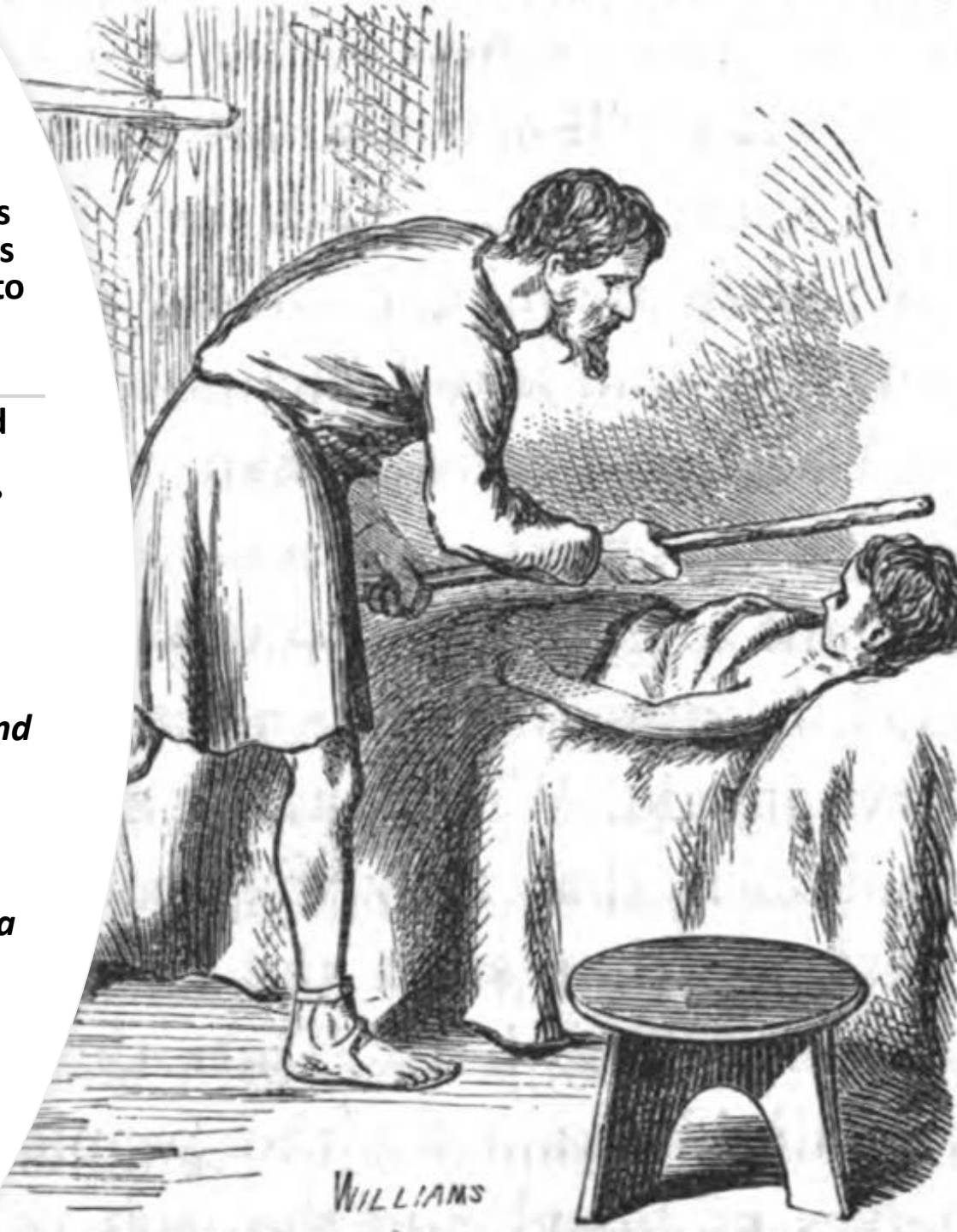
“I’m an excellent speaker”

“I’m a regular attendee at church, and don’t miss”

“I’m an excellent singer” or “I pray well in public”

“I’m a church leader,” or “I married a church leader”

“My spouse is a good person”



Observations

**WHAT WILL MAKE THE
DIFFERENCE IN PEOPLE'S LIVES
THAT YOU CARE ABOUT IS YOUR
RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD!**

James 5:16

***When Elisha Appealed to God Himself,
The Child Was Raised!***

- **Fast forwarding to 2 Kings 8, at the chapter's beginning, we find that a famine had affected the land of God's people, principally because God's people had been unfaithful and unrepentant to Him from King Jehoram, on down**
- **God's people can be affected by the sins of the country in which they live (400 years of social injustice can cause generational suffering)**
- **Many times the difference between the religious and the ungodly *in the same crisis*, is the tenderness and mercy which the Godly receive during the crisis**

For example, there may be an abnormally cold winter for all plants, but the good gardener shelters and nurtures the tender plants so that they will flourish in their due season

**Aren't You Glad That You Have
a Good Gardener During This
Period In Our Lives?**

**Someone Who Knows Where
The Invisible Is Located!**

Observations

- So in 2 Kings 8:1 God sends Elisha in the midst of his work to warn the Shunammite woman to, *“Arise, and go thou and thine household, and sojourn wheresoever thou can sojourn: for the Lord hath called for a famine.”*

Her husband is not mentioned here as before, neither is she called, “the well-to-do woman” (widow/hard times)

- Now, as far as we know the predicted famine of seven years for a whole country, was unannounced to everyone, except this woman of Shunem. *Folks, that’s specific favor and grace, based on a relationship!*
- Her faith is profound here, leaving at the prophet’s direction, giving up certainty for uncertainty, based on faith, Hebrews 11:6

Observations

- **Fast forward to seven years later, verse 3, and the Shunammite woman has returned to her homeland; but the government of Israel had now taken over her home and her farm, now rendering her homeless**
- **So now she goes to the palace of the King (the government) to appeal for her house and her land**
- ***Providentially*, the King is in his Royal palace having a conversation with Gehazi, Elisha's assistant.**
- **The king had just asked Gehazi to tell him about the “great things that the Elisha, the servant of God, had done” (He knew that Gehazi had to be familiar with Elisha's work)**
- **The Bible says in verses 3-6 that Gehazi had just begun to tell the king about the time Elisha had brought back to life the Shunammite woman's son when she, on the same day, at the same time, shows up at the king's court requesting her original property back**

Observations

- **As God would have it, even after seven years, Gehazi recognizes her and tells the king, *“Here is the woman I’m talking to you about right now!”***
- **The king then listens to her story, which is the same one that Gehazi was about to tell him**
- **She actively appeals to the king for the return of the property that belonged to her originally before the famine**
- **Ladies, she had to use tact, packaging, and prayer, acknowledging the king’s power (speaking the truth in love is important, Ephesians 4:15) Recognize the leverage another person may have on you!**

What Happens?

She Wins!

The King Gives Her Back All Of Her Property

And

**All Of The Back Revenue For What She Would
Have Made From It!**

**(Not Back Taxes for the Seven Years That She
Was Not There)**

***Ride Out Your Disappointments, The End May
Be Better Than The Beginning!***

What Are Your Great Stories?

- **Has God ever done something for you, that only He could know that you needed, that increased your faith?**
- **Has God used some people in your life that moved your career needle in the right direction?**
- **Has God blessed some of your loved ones to get the blessings that they needed and thereby increased your faith?**
- **Great stories that you hear can inspire you to greater trust and faith**
- **If you don't have a great story, why is that?**

The Plan Of Salvation

Hear the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Believe the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Repent of Sins

Acts 17:30

Confess Christ

Acts 8:37

Be Baptized

Acts 8:38