

**Theme:** The Word of the Lord is the Word of life. Only by faith do we have rest whether we face joy or sorrow. All is well when we rest there.

**Background:** The four events recounted in this chapter illustrate the nature of Elisha’s ministry, revealing the compassion of God who maintains and *restores* life. We focus only on the second account this morning.

**Introduction:** Half-empty or half-full? I think I am the latter. In these lingering struggles, I’m not so sure. I know that where I want to end is neither – but ultimately *full*.

## I. The Shunamite’s Blessing (8-17)

- A. Blessed with wealth and peace – Sufficient means for security
- B. Blessing others
  - “Urging” Elisha to take of her abundance (1-3)
  - Providing a special “guest room”
- C. Blessed in return
  - 1. Returning the favor? (13a)
    - a. Her contentment (13b)
    - b. Her lack – No son
  - 2. A skeptical response – It’s too good to be true (16)
  - 3. The sheer goodness of God – She is not “important” just blessed
  - 4. All is well

## II. The Shunamite’s Crisis (18-31)

- A. Tragedy
  - 1. Death comes to the boy
  - 2. Joy turns to sorrow!

NOTE: We all experience this at one time or another.
- B. Spiritual Crisis
  - 1. Who is this God? – Capricious like the gods of the nations?
  - 2. What have I done to deserve this?  
NOTE: Our distress can be the result of our actions – or the fruit of a broken, sinful world. (cf. Jonah 2:2; 2 Samuel 22:7)
  - 3. Why are his plans hidden from us? (27)
  - 4. Will God’s providence (directing all things) nullify his promises?
- C. Seeking the Man of God (Used 9 times)
  - 1. Laying the child on his bed – In faith or judgment?
  - 2. Only he can answer her
  - 3. A bitter accusation (28)
  - 4. A steadfast faith (30)

### III. Blessing Beyond Hope (32-37)

#### A. The prayer of the righteous (Power!) (33)

1. A cold, dead body
2. Illustrating his prayer – Imparting his life to the child
3. Fervent prayer (1 Kings 18:42)
4. Seeking the power of the LORD

#### B. Life restored

1. Death is conquered – God’s power over death is displayed
2. Warmth, breath, life - returns

#### C. To the glory of God (37)

1. Honoring, worshiping the God of Grace *first*
2. Receiving her son back *second*

NOTE: Her “glass” is neither half-empty or half-full – it is filled to overflowing!

### IV. Hope Beyond the Grave?

#### A. God raises the dead

1. Through the prayers of Elijah and Elisha
  - Two dead children raised
  - A glorious *sign*.
2. Through the *word* of Jesus Christ
  - a. Entering a cold, dead world
  - b. In the village of Nain (Luke 7:11-17)
    - The miracle is repeated
    - By the Word of Jesus

#### B. Raised to eternal life

1. Through Elisha? No.
  - His power was not his own
  - He couldn’t *command* the dead to live
  - He couldn’t raise to eternal life

NOTE: He points to the one who can
2. Through Jesus Christ!
  - a. His power – Is his own
  - b. The dead hear his voice
    - When we were dead in trespasses and sins (Ephesians 2:1-5)
    - When we are in the grave (1 Thessalonians 4:16)

**Conclusion:** Though his providence may at times seem dark, his promises are clear and certain. In him our glass will be full for in him we know “all is well.”

Reading for Next Week: 2 Kings 5