

## THE RESTING CHURCH – ABC (LESSON 38)

### QUESTION

READ 2 KINGS 4:8-37

USING THE SHUNAMMITE WOMAN AS A SYMBOL, SHOW HOW SHE IS A PICTURE OF A CHURCH AT REST/BELIEVER AT REST.

### THE RESTING CHURCH – ANSWERS (L38 – ABC)

CHARACTERISTICS OF A CHURCH/BELIEVER AT REST.

### DISCERNING

2 Kings 4:8-11

8 Now it happened one day that Elisha went to Shunem, where there was a notable woman, and she persuaded him to eat some food. So it was, as often as he passed by, he would turn in there to eat some food.

9 And she said to her husband, "Look now, I know that this is a holy man of God, who passes by us regularly.

10 "Please, let us make a small upper room on the wall; and let us put a bed for him there, and a table and a chair and a lampstand; so it will be, whenever he comes to us, he can turn in there."

11 And it happened one day that he came there, and he turned in to the upper room and lay down there.

She discerns the man of God. She was not gullible – it took her some time to do this. The moment she discerned that he was a man of God, she moved from hospitality to honour – she gives him a permanent place in her house. Her perception determined her reception.

In respecting the man of God she demonstrated respect for the anointing.

THIS IS A CHURCH THAT DOES NOT FIGHT WITH THE SET MAN, BUT HONOURS THE SET MAN.

### SATISFIED

2 Kings 4:13

13 And he said to him, "Say now to her, 'Look, you have been concerned for us with all this care. What can I do for you? Do you want me to speak on your behalf to the king or to the commander of the army?'" She answered, "I dwell among my own people.

She wants nothing in return. She is satisfied.

### MOVES FROM BARRENESS TO FRUITFULNESS

2 Kings 4:17

But the woman conceived, and bore a son when the appointed time had come, of which Elisha had told her.

Her respect for the servant of God delivers her from barrenness.

### RECOGNIZED PROBLEM - SOLVER

2 Kings 4:19

And he said to his father, "My head, my head!" So he said to a servant, "Carry him to his mother."

## EXCELS IN CRISIS

### SHE WENT UP BEFORE SHE WENT OUT

2 Kings 4:20-21

20 When he had taken him and brought him to his mother, he sat on her knees till noon, and then died.

21 And she went up and laid him on the bed of the man of God, shut the door upon him, and went out.

This is a picture of seeking God first.

Other examples of seeking God first:

## JOB

Job 1:20-21

20 Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head, and he fell to the ground and worshiped.

21 And he said: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return there. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD."(NKJ)

## DAVID

2 Samuel 12:18-20

18 Then on the seventh day it came to pass that the child died. And the servants of David were afraid to tell him that the child was dead. For they said, "Indeed, while the child was alive, we spoke to him, and he would not heed our voice. How can we tell him that the child is dead? He may do some harm!"

19 When David saw that his servants were whispering, David perceived that the child was dead. Therefore David said to his servants, "Is the child dead?" And they said, "He is dead."

20 So David arose from the ground, washed and anointed himself, and changed his clothes; and he went into the house of the LORD and worshiped. Then he went to his own house; and when he requested, they set food before him, and he ate.

(NKJ)

## DANIEL

Dan 6:10

10 Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days.

## PUTS THE LID ON HER CRISIS

2 Kings 4:21

And she went up and laid him on the bed of the man of God, shut the door upon him, and went out.  
(NKJ)

She did not tell everyone about her crisis. She was not a murmurer and complainer.

Num 14:2-3

2 And all the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron, and the whole congregation

said to them, "If only we had died in the land of Egypt! Or if only we had died in this wilderness!  
3 "Why has the LORD brought us to this land to fall by the sword, that our wives and children should become victims? Would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?"

Ps 142:2

I pour out my complaint before Him; I declare before Him my trouble.

Job 21:4

"As for me, is my complaint against man? And if it were, why should I not be impatient?(NKJ)

James 3:2

For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body.

Death of her son was an indictment on Elisha. She did not ask for a son. She covered Elisha's nakedness.

#### RAN TO THE MAN OF GOD FIRST

This church understands set man anointing. That which came by the anointing can be restored by the anointing. Sometimes you have to run to a man. The Church in Antioch had to find out from the apostles in Jerusalem.

The church at rest values the man of God.

Elisha ran after Elijah.

The Shunammite ran after Elisha.

#### POSITIVE PROCLAMMATION

2 Kings 4:22-23

22 Then she called to her husband, and said, "Please send me one of the young men and one of the donkeys, that I may run to the man of God and come back."

23 So he said, "Why are you going to him today? It is neither the New Moon nor the Sabbath." And she said, "It is well."

She refused to speak evil of the man of God or her situation.

In her crisis she declares "it is well"

2 Kings 4:26

"Please run now to meet her, and say to her, 'Is it well with you? Is it well with your husband? Is it well with the child?'" And she answered, "It is well."

#### GOES FORWARD

2 Kings 4:24

Then she saddled a donkey, and said to her servant, "Drive, and go forward; do not slacken the pace for me unless I tell you."

When there is a crisis, this church goes forward.

Do not lose the ground you have gained.

Phillipians 3:13-14

13 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead,

14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

King Asa, in his crisis went backwards – he consulted with the occult practitioners.  
The multitude went backwards when Jesus asked them to eat his flesh and drink his blood.

#### DOES NOT SLACKEN

2 Kings 4:24

24 Then she saddled a donkey, and said to her servant, "Drive, and go forward; do not slacken the pace for me unless I tell you."

This church does not slow down in a crisis.

This church does not lose its momentum.

The doctor, family and devil may say “slow down!” , but this church is activated.

This is a church at rest- not a dead church.

She prays, worships, sacrifices and obeys consistently.

(You are a lamp, not a candle – ask for more oil.)

#### WANTS THE SUBSTANCE NOT THE SHADOW

2 Kings 4:29-30

29 Then he said to Gehazi, "Get yourself ready, and take my staff in your hand, and be on your way. If you meet anyone, do not greet him; and if anyone greets you, do not answer him; but lay my staff on the face of the child."

30 And the mother of the child said, "As the LORD lives, and as your soul lives, I will not leave you." So he arose and followed her.(NKJ)

She wanted Elisha, not his staff.

This church wants the Spirit not the oil.

She wants the real thing – not the picture or symbol.

Does not want the gold dust – wants him.

Job 22:25

Yes, the Almighty will be your gold and your precious silver;(NKJ)

A church at rest settles for nothing less than the real thing.

This is unlike Naaman – he left God and took the land.

Unlike the Pharisees and Scribes – they took the Sabbath, not the Lord of the Sabbath. They took the law --not the lawgiver.

This church knows that the shadow, picture and type does not work any longer.

#### DOES NOT INTERFERE WITH THE ANOINTING.

2 Kings 4:33

He went in therefore, shut the door behind the two of them, and prayed to the LORD.

She did not barge into the room with Elisha. She stayed outside.

She trusts the anointing;

#### RECOGNIZES THAT THE ANOINTING WILL MAKE ROOM FOR HER

2 Kings 4:34-35

34 And he went up and lay on the child, and put his mouth on his mouth, his eyes on his eyes, and his hands on his hands; and he stretched himself out on the child, and the flesh of the child became

warm.

35 He returned and walked back and forth in the house, and again went up and stretched himself out on him; then the child sneezed seven times, and the child opened his eyes.

She made room for the anointing – now the anointing makes room for her – not only the restoration of her son, but the restoration of her land as well.

II Ki 8:1-6

1 Then Elisha spoke to the woman whose son he had restored to life, saying, "Arise and go, you and your household, and stay wherever you can; for the LORD has called for a famine, and furthermore, it will come upon the land for seven years."

2 So the woman arose and did according to the saying of the man of God, and she went with her household and dwelt in the land of the Philistines seven years.

3 It came to pass, at the end of seven years, that the woman returned from the land of the Philistines; and she went to make an appeal to the king for her house and for her land.

4 Then the king talked with Gehazi, the servant of the man of God, saying, "Tell me, please, all the great things Elisha has done."

5 Now it happened, as he was telling the king how he had restored the dead to life, that there was the woman whose son he had restored to life, appealing to the king for her house and for her land. And Gehazi said, "My lord, O king, this is the woman, and this is her son whom Elisha restored to life."

6 And when the king asked the woman, she told him. So the king appointed a certain officer for her, saying, "Restore all that was hers, and all the proceeds of the field from the day that she left the land until now."

#### ABSENCE OF SENTIMENTALISM

II Ki 4:36-37

36 And he called Gehazi and said, "Call this Shunammite woman." So he called her. And when she came in to him, he said, "Pick up your son."

37 So she went in, fell at his feet, and bowed to the ground; then she picked up her son and went out.

She was not overwhelmed by the miracle. It was as if she expected it.

There was no thanks, no exchange of words, no crying.

Remember, she said "all is well" – long before.