

Life Lesson 84
Elisha's Early Miracles
Text: II Kings 2, 4

The Introduction

Elisha took his place as the new prophet of God. Other men prophesied and taught, but Elisha had a double portion of Elijah's spirit. God used him in a special way.

The Story

One day some men talked to Elisha about a problem.

"Our city is in a good place," they told him, "but the water isn't good to drink and the fields don't grow much grain."

"Bring me some salt," Elisha told them.

He took the salt and threw it into the spring of water.

"God says these waters are healed now," Elisha proclaimed. "There will be no more death from them and the fields won't be barren anymore."

And they weren't! That was truly a miracle, because salty water isn't good to drink and plants won't grow in soil watered with salty water. Yet God used the salt to make the bad water good to drink.

Jesus said that Christians are the salt of the earth. This story makes us think about how God wants to use us to heal a land that is sick with sin. We can't do it by ourselves, but God can use us to make a difference in a needy world.

Elisha traveled to another town. On the way, he met some young men. They made fun of Elisha,

"Go on – you old bald-head," they said. Elisha was a man of God. When they showed disrespect for the prophet, they were showing disrespect for God. A bear came out of the woods and killed those young men who had been so foolish as to taunt and mock a man of God. Do you think God is pleased if you are irreverent or disrespectful about the things of God?

There were other prophets in the land at that time, although Elisha was the greatest. The widow of one of the prophets came to Elisha and told him of the terrible trouble she had.

“My husband is dead and I have no money. I can’t pay my debts,” the woman told him. “A man loaned us some money, and he says I have to pay him back right now. If I don’t give him the money, he will take my two boys as slaves for payment of the debt.”

What an awful predicament! Yet she wasn’t alone in her trouble. God would rescue her.

“What do you have in your house?” Elisha asked her.

“All I have is a pot of oil,” she answered.

“Go and borrow all the empty jars you can find. Borrow lots of them,” Elisha said.

“Then pour from your pot of oil into the empty vessels.”

What a strange thing to do! What good would it do to pour oil from one pot to another? But the widow did as the man of God told her.

Her sons brought in all the pots they could find. The widow took her little pot of oil and began filling an empty pot with it. She poured and poured until the big pot was full. Then she poured into another pot – and filled it up, too. From that one little jar of oil, she filled all the pots she could find. When at last there were no more pots, her little jar of oil ran dry.

“Take this oil and sell it,” Elisha told her. “Use the money to pay back your debts.”

God took the little bit this woman had and made it stretch until it was big enough to take care of her need.

The Life Lesson

Sometimes we are tempted to worry that we don’t have enough money, or enough talent, or enough time to do what God wants us to do. If we trust Him, that’s no problem. It’s our part to surrender to God all that we have. It’s His job to make the little we have stretch to do all He wants us to do.

Review Questions

Who was the main prophet of Israel after Elijah went to be with God?

Elisha

What problem did the men of the city have?

The water wasn't good and the crops didn't grow well.

What did Elisha do to fix the problem?

He threw salt in the water and made the water good to drink. That made the crops grow well, too.

Does salt usually help things grow better?

No, salt kills plants and salty water isn't good to drink.

What happened to the boys who made fun of Elisha?

Two bears came and killed them.

What did Elisha tell the poor widow to do?

He told her to pour from her one pot of oil into all the other pots she could find.

What happened to the pot of oil?

God made it increase so that it filled up all the other pots and jars she had gathered.