

Preparing for the Move of God (part 1)

Cornerstone Community Church – Pastor Jerry Ernst

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Scripture: 2nd Kings 4:8-17

Preparing for God's move requires Christian *perception, preparation, and position*. Today's story is about a Shunammite woman who cooked, cared, and comforted the man of God, Elisha. The Shunammite woman desired God's presence in her life. Her preparation prepared the way for God to bless her.

Elisha (2nd Kings 2:9) A prophet of God who succeeded Elijah. Known for performing personal miracles.

Shunem - A town in the territory of Issachar, where the Shunammite woman lived.

Shunammite woman - A wealthy and hospitable woman who recognized Elisha as a holy man of God.

The Shunammite Woman Prepared for God's move by... (2nd Kings 4:8-17)

1) ...HER PERCEPTION (vv. 8-9) - "(8) *One day Elisha went to Shunem. And a well-to-do woman was there, who urged him to stay for a meal. So whenever he came by, he stopped there to eat. (9) She said to her husband, 'I know that this man who often comes our way is **a holy man of God.**'"*

- In her day – the move of God was in the holy man of God, Elisha.
- She **perceived** it to **prepare** for it!

Her Actions:

- **Hospitable**: by preparing meals (Vs. 8)
- **Honorable**: lifting up Elisha's holy position (Vs. 9)
- **Holy desire**: yearning for Elisha's godly insight into her daily life (Vv. 8-9)

2) ...HER PREPARATION (vs. 10) - "(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.*"

- She wanted God's presence to continue, so she prepared something permanent to house Elisha.
- She arranged her home to position the presence of God.

The "Upper Room" she prepared: A specially prepared room for Elisha, symbolizing hospitality and reverence for God's servant.

BED – (symbolic of) **resting** in God – for all He has prepared for us.

➤ **John 14:2** "(2) ...I go and prepare a place for you."

TABLE – (symbolic of) **place of fellowship** of God's visitation (Rev. 3:20).

CHAIR – (symbolic of) **Authority of God**

LAMPSTAND – (symbolic of) **Revelation of God's light** ***Psalm 119:105** - "(105) *Your Word is a lamp unto my feet...*"

Revelation 11:3-4: Two faithful witnesses are "lampstands" sent to preach in Jerusalem during Divine judgment!

3) ...HER HUMBLE POSITION POSITIONED GOD'S MOVE (Vv. 11-17)

"(13) *And he (Elisha) said to him (Gehazi), '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.'* (14) *So he said, 'What then is to be done for her?' And Gehazi answered, 'Actually, she has no son, and her husband is old.'* (15) *So he said, 'Call her.'* When he had called her, she stood in the doorway. **(16) Then he said, 'About this time next year you shall embrace a son.'** And she said, 'No, my lord. Man of God, do not lie to your

*maidservant!’ (17) **But the woman conceived, and bore a son when the appointed time had come, of which Elisha had told her.***

- The Shunammite woman received the unthinkable, a son.
- Her town, Shunem, was also the home of Abishag (1st Kings 1:3; King David).
- Jewish tradition tells us the Shunammite woman was Abishag’s sister; meaning she was over 100 years old.

Preparing for the Move of God requires...

- **PLACEMENT** – being near to God.
- **SERVICE/SACRIFICE** - to God and people (our time, energy & love).
- **CONTENTMENT** – being satisfied with what you have and don’t have (Vs. 13)

God’s Move in our lives brings about...

- 1) God meeting our deepest need** - Her void was not having a son (Psalm 37:4).
- 2) Others noticing our need** – Elisha and his servant, Gehazi (Vs. 14).
- 3) God’s Promises given** – Scripture and Word (Vs. 16).
- 4) Miracles produced** – a son (Vs. 17).

“The opportunity of a lifetime must be seized in the lifetime of the opportunity.” (Leonard Ravenhill)