

GIVE THE EMPTY ROOM TO JESUS

2Kings 4:9 *And she said unto her husband, Behold now, I perceive that this is an holy man of God, which passeth by us continually.*

2Kings 4:10 *Let us make a little chamber, I pray thee, on the wall; and let us set for him there a bed, and a table, and a stool, and a candlestick: and it shall be, when he cometh to us, that he shall turn in thither.*

The Shunammite woman is described as a “great” woman (2Kings 4:8). Sadly, many great individuals in this world have little or no interest in the matters of God, but this woman was different. God always has someone, even among the rich and famous, who will pay attention to him. “Because they regard not the works of the LORD, nor the operation of his hands, he shall destroy them, and not build them up” (Psalm 28:5). Now this Shunammite woman was childless. She could have decided to be bitter and selfish, but she was remarkably able to focus on what mattered most. “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you” (Matt 6:33). If the room that was reserved for a child was empty, she determined it would be a blessing to the man of God, Elisha.

Do you have an empty room in your house? Is there a need that God has not yet met? Give that empty room to Jesus – the empty room will soon be filled with the laughter of your child. What is your empty room? Is it poor health, loneliness, fear, financial problems, family problems – give the empty room to Jesus! The Shunammite woman wanted to bless the man of God because she loved God. She wanted to make the life of Elisha much more comfortable. She noticed he walked by her house often on his way to do the work of God in Israel. She wanted to do her part for the work of God.

Proverbs 11:25 *The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself.*

Now what happened to that empty room? In becoming the guest room of Elisha, it became God’s guest room. How would you like to have Jesus as your guest? This is the God who said, “Thus saith the LORD, The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool: where is the house that ye build unto me? and where is the place of my rest?” (Isaiah 66:1). Elisha prayed in that empty room and soon God revealed the need of the woman – a child. Let us now fast forward the story. The boy died and was raised from the dead. This life, sadly, is a roller coaster of blessings and trials. “Then spake Elisha unto the woman, whose son he had restored to life, saying, Arise, and go thou and thine household, and sojourn wheresoever thou canst

sojourn: for the LORD hath called for a famine; and it shall also come upon the land seven years” (2 Kings 8:1). The Shunammite woman left for the land of the Philistines during the seven-year drought after which she returned to reclaim her property. Now, at the same moment that the woman came before the King to reclaim her house and land, the King was asking Gehazi, Elisha’s servant about the miracles God did through Elisha, and Gehazi was speaking about the Shunammite woman. “And the king talked with Gehazi the servant of the man of God, saying, Tell me, I pray thee, all the great things that Elisha hath done” (2 Kings 8:4). God’s timing is always perfect. The King must have been astonished and was only too happy to give this woman her house. You see how the empty room given to Jesus will never be stolen or destroyed! Give the empty room to Jesus! Let us now turn to the ultimate story of an unnamed man who gave another guest room to God himself.

Luke 22:10 And he said unto them, Behold, when ye are entered into the city, there shall a man meet you, bearing a pitcher of water; follow him into the house where he entereth in.

Luke 22:11 And ye shall say unto the goodman of the house, The Master saith unto thee, Where is the guestchamber, where I shall eat the passover with my disciples?

The man was carrying a pitcher of water. Remember what Solomon said, “...he that watereth shall be watered also himself” (Proverbs 11:25). May we always carry water to water others! Now keep in mind that this was the time of the Passover in Jerusalem. It was extremely hard to find accommodation. God had commanded Israel, “Three times in the year all thy males shall appear before the Lord GOD” (Exodus 23:17). But there was one man who determined to keep an empty room for the most special guest in Israel and the universe – the God of the Passover itself, Jesus Christ! What an honor, what a privilege to reserve a guest room for God himself! Imagine Airbnb, Booking.com or Hotels.com saying, “Sorry, we cannot give you this room because it is reserved on these Passover dates for Jesus!” Every house in Israel ate the Passover lamb, but in this room, the Passover Lamb himself was present. How blessed was the man who prepared this guest room for the Lord! All the man had to do was prepare the empty room for Jesus. Jesus himself would bring the feast of salvation to the empty room. It was in that Upper Room that two of the greatest spiritual events occurred: Jesus shared his life-giving flesh and blood with the Apostles and the Holy Ghost was later poured out.

Mat 26:26 And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body.

Mat 26:27 And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it;

Act 1:13 And when they were come in, they went up into an upper room, where abode both Peter, and James, and John, and Andrew, Philip, and Thomas, Bartholomew, and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon Zelotes, and Judas the brother of James.

It appears the Lord truly loved this man who happily prepared his guest room for the Lord. Perhaps the Lord had blessed this man in some way before this which may explain his dedication to the Lord. Like the Shunammite woman, he wanted to contribute to the ministry of the Lord in any way he could. If this is our desire, the Lord will come to our empty room; he will send the message ahead, “where is the guest chamber?” I hope we all have a guest chamber for Jesus! You will not regret preparing a guest chamber for the Lord. The New Testament began in that guest chamber. That man could boast that the Lord and the Apostles were his guests; that the revelation of the origin of the life-saving blood and flesh of the Lord were first shared in his house and that the prophecy of Joel 2:28 was fulfilled in his house. “And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit” (Joel 2:28,29).

Rather than complain and murmur, the Shunammite woman prepared her empty for Elisha. Elisha then prayed for need in that room. When we water others for the sake of Christ, they will pray for our needs. I like to believe that the unnamed man who prepared the guest chamber for the Lord was present in that guest chamber when the Holy Spirit was poured out. Why not? God always used our empty rooms to bless us back. When we ask the Lord to bless us, he will say, “Ok, prepare me a guest chamber!” Hannah was a great woman of faith in that she prepared a guest chamber for God in her own womb. She determined to carry a baby who would belong to God as soon as he was weaned. Samuel was the only child whose house was the house of God – the Temple, but he began his life in a guest chamber, the womb of Hannah. How did God reward and bless this guest chamber that was Hannah’s womb? “And the LORD visited Hannah, so that she conceived, and bare three sons and two daughters. And the child Samuel grew before the LORD” (I Samuel 2:21). The empty room prepared for God will never be empty again! Give the empty room to Jesus!