

DAILY BIBLE STUDY SHEET

Daily meditation on the Word of God is imperative to our growth. As the people of God, we should commit to reading Scripture every day. There are questions to help prompt your meditation. If you do not have a Bible, please contact the church office and one will be given to you. To locate the passages, use the Table of Contents to find the page number. The number before the colon will tell you the chapter to find. The numbers after the colon are the superscript numbers in your Bible indicating the verses to read.

Monday, July 11th – 2 Kings 2:1-18

In the next couple of weeks, we will witness the transition from Elijah to Elisha and then Elisha's life and ministry as a prophet of God. If you remember back in 1 Kings 19:16, God told Elijah to anoint Elisha to be Elijah's replacement. Elijah did this and Elisha immediately left the fields and became Elijah's personal assistant. What does verse 1 tell us about where we are headed today? Now read verses 2-6. What is repetitive in these verses? Do you sense a movement towards something? Everyone seems to know what is about to happen. What does Elisha tell Elijah every time? That is some dedication to the LORD and to his master Elijah. Who is watching and what happens in verses 7-8? What would be going through your mind if you saw this? Once on the other side of the Jordan River, what does Elijah ask of Elisha and what is Elisha's response (vs. 9)? What is Elijah's response back to Elisha? Do you remember what Pastor Shirley said about this answer and how this would be the indication God had granted Elisha's request? The terms are set, let's see if they are met. Read verses 11-14. How do we know God granted Elisha's request? Now remember, there is a group of prophets watching. What is their response to what they have just seen (vss. 15-17)? When all is said and done, what did Elisha remind them (vs. 18)? From this point forward, we will read and learn about Elisha and the encounters he has with others. What do these texts reveal to you about God? Consider the miracle worker and faithfulness of God today. What does this reveal about us humans? How does this point to Jesus? Consider Elijah going up in a whirlwind and Jesus on a cloud. Consider the transfiguration in Mark 9:2-4. Are you as committed and faithful as Elijah? Elisha? The other prophets? If not, why not?

Tuesday, July 12th – 2 Kings 2:19-25

We left off yesterday with Elisha receiving the double portion of the Spirit that rested on Elijah, and Elijah is no more. Today we will look at the first couple of recordings of miracles done by Elisha. Where is Elisha and who comes to see him (vs. 19)? What was the problem? Not having good water is a problem anywhere. What does Elisha ask for (vs. 20)? What does he do with the items and what is the result (vss. 21-22)? Now we move to an interesting – but for 21st Century eyes – peculiar story. Read verses 23-25. Where is Elisha and what did he encounter (vs. 23)? Remember, Bethel was Israel's hotbed of idolatry. The jeering would have been a form of disrespect for Elisha's message. What did Elisha do? Notice he only cursed the boys, bad enough. But what happened after the curse? This was from God not from Elisha. Mocking God's messengers or message never ends well. This time it was instantaneous. What does this text reveal to you about God? Consider the bears' arrival at just the right time. We don't like to think of God as executing judgment, but an attribute of God is judgment. We like to think somehow that love outdoes and changes God's judgment, but God always loves and always judges perfectly at the same time. This is one of those times we need to let God reveal to us who He is rather than say God is not like this. What does this reveal about humanity? Consider all the uproars we have in our culture today over what God has declared is evil in his sight and the crying out to stop and shut up the prophets who speak truth against sin. How does this point to Jesus? He came to do good but was criticized and put to death. We are called to follow him in this example. Are you ready and able to do that?

Wednesday, July 13th – 2 Kings 4:1-7

We will continue with Elisha's life as we jump to Chapter 4. What is the problem we will address today (vs. 1)? It is important to note who she is and understand the desperate position the widow is in. What does Elisha ask her (vs. 2)? Notice he doesn't just "magically" fix it. What does she have? Notice she says "nothing except" or however your translation reads. What does Elisha tell her to do with what she has (vss. 3-4)? Now would you do that if I gave you that answer or even Elisha? What does the woman do (vss. 5-6)? Now that she is finished, what is the result (vs. 7)? Pretty amazing, isn't it? A lesson we can all learn. When we say "nothing except," we have something and no matter how small and insignificant it may be, God can make a way using it. What does this reveal to you about God? About yourself? How does this point to Jesus? Consider this statement as you answer it (Matthew 17:20).

Thursday, July 14th – 2 Kings 4:8-37

Today we meet the woman from Shunem. She has no name, just an address but she shows wonderful hospitality. How does this relationship between Elisha and the woman begin (vs. 8)? This is Jewish hospitality that was practiced regularly. What does the woman ask her husband permission to do and why does she feel she should do it (vss. 9-10)? How does Elisha respond to this gracious hospitality and what is the woman's response (vss. 11-13)? What does this reveal about the woman's motivation? It is not from a point of "what can I get out of this." Elisha, however, still wants to bless her. What happens next (vss. 14-17)? All good so far but things are about to change. What happens to the son (vss. 17-22)? How did the husband respond to her request (vs. 23)? How does the woman respond and what does she do (vss. 23b – 24)? As she arrives, notice what happens (vss. 25 – 26). She wasn't messing around with the servant. This was her son! When she reaches Elisha, what does she say and who does she lay the blame on for what has happened (vss. 27-28)? Elisha makes a decision and what plan does he set in motion (vs. 29)? But Momma is not having it. What does she insist upon (vs. 30)? What happens next (vss. 31-35)? Now that life has been restored, what happens next (vss. 36-37)? Can you feel the woman's gratitude and relief? What does this reveal to you about God? Consider the power to raise this boy from the dead through his servant Elisha. What does this reveal about us as humans? Consider the faith of the woman in what God could do through Elisha. How does this story point to Jesus? Remember the raising of the widow's son and of Lazarus. Remember God raising Jesus from the dead. God is a God of life and He is a life giver. Praise God today for the resurrected life he has given you!

Friday, July 15th – 2 Kings 4:38-44

We conclude this week with a couple more miracles of Elisha. Read verses 38-41. Does this remind you of another story we read this week? Mistakes can happen, but God can overcome our mistakes. We need to remain calm and in the power of God address the matter, making it right. Now read verses 42-44. It was customary to provide for the prophets things like wood, food, clothing as they served God and cared for the people. How does Elisha care for the people? Does this remind you of any other stories you may have heard? What does this reveal to you about God and His power in his chosen people? What does this reveal about you? Keep in mind you are chosen as well. How do these stories point to Jesus? Spend time in prayer thanking God for the many provisions He has given us directly and through others.

Saturday, July 16th – In preparation for tomorrow's worship, please read 2 Kings 5:9-14.