

WEEK THREE: UPON FURTHER REVIEW

God wants to move in our lives in ways that we didn't even know to ask for. Whether you are in a place of life without any pressing needs or are in desperate search of a miracle, Pastor Steven preached this message to help you submit to God's greater perspective of your life.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES: 2 Kings 4:8-37

- I. Greater things are stirring in the mind and heart of God for you. (2 Kings 4: 8-13)
 - a. The Well-to-Do Woman
 - i. In some translations, the Shunammite woman is even referred to as a "great woman."
 - ii. On the surface, she didn't need anything from Elisha. She didn't seek anything from the Lord—even as she served Him—for she felt she was fine on her own.
 - iii. However, well-to-do people often have greater hurts, disappointments, and needs than we could ever know.
 - b. "God isn't planning ways to 'get us.' God is scheming of ways He wants to bless and grow us."
 - i. All the while, God had something greater in store for her, not out of anything she could have wanted, but simply out of His character.
- II. "You will hold a son in your arms..." (2 Kings 4:14-17)
 - a. "Don't mislead your servant..."
 - i. Gehazi, Elisha's servant, brought the Shunammite woman's need to light in verse 14. So as you can imagine, Elisha struck a chord with the barren woman by promising her that she would be with child.
 - b. God overrules our objections in favor of His greater purpose.
 - i. She likely objected to this promise in response to the pattern of rejection she had likely already experienced in this area of her life.
 - ii. God ultimately delivered on the promise He made through Elisha, blessing her with a child.
 - iii. No matter your disappointments, failures, or rejections, "The cross overruled your crippled condition and raised you up to a position of great strength and power."
- III. "Upon Further Review..." (1 Kings 19:18-37)
 - a. "The road to greater things is never neat."
 - i. The Shunammite woman was likely on a spiritual high as her miracle child continued to grow.
 - ii. It all came crashing down when her son died (v. 20).
 - b. Plan the funeral or expect a miracle.
 - i. If you have poured yourself into a promise you received that went unfulfilled, you know the frustration, bitterness, and hopelessness of feeling like your faith is wasted.
 - ii. But if God is the one that promised it, He is the only one that can resurrect it.
 - iii. The Shunammite woman didn't waste her time grieving over an unfulfilled promise from God. She immediately appealed to His higher authority.
 - c. Upon Further Review
 - i. In college football, there are designated replay officials that sit in a booth high above the field. Any play is capable of being 'sent upstairs for further review.'
 - ii. As the Law made nothing perfect, Jesus comes to offer another--and perfect--review of our situation.
 - iii. Believe today that your faith is never wasted!