

IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL Lesson

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Lesson for August 5

ELISHA HELPS THE NEEDY

LESSON TEXT—II Kings 4:1-44.
GOLDEN TEXT—And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these, my brethren, ye have done it unto me. Matthew 25:40.

PRIMARY TOPIC—Elisha Helps a Woman in Need.

JUNIOR TOPIC—Elisha Helps Those in Need.

INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC—How We May Help Others.

YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC—Our Responsibility for Others.

I. Elisha Helps a Widow (vv. 1-7).

1. Her distress (v. 1). Her husband, a godly man, was taken away by death, leaving a debt. A certain creditor was about to make her sons slaves because of the nonpayment of the debt. We are not told for what reason the debt was incurred. It may have been because of charitable deeds.

2. Her only possession (v. 2). A pot of oil was all that she had in her house. God can use what we possess, and to set that apart is the measure of our responsibility.

3. The oil miraculously increased (vv. 3-7). The meager supply of oil was so increased that the sale of it paid the debt. There was enough left for the sustenance of the family.

II. Elisha's Kind Deeds to the Shunammite Woman (vv. 8-37).

1. Her hospitality to Elisha (vv. 8-11).

a. Its occasion (v. 8). Observing that Elisha passed continually by her house in his journeys, she was moved with compassion toward him. She perceived that he was a man of God and was called upon to deny himself of many things. She determined, according to her ability, to supply his needs.

b. She fitted up a room for him (vv. 10, 11). She equipped this room with the necessary furniture to make it comfortable.

2. Elisha endeavors to repay her (vv. 12-17).

a. He offers to ask a favor of the king or head of the army (v. 13). This showed that Elisha had influence at the royal court. The woman's reply shows her truly to be a great woman. She would not change the calm and quiet of her home for a place even in the royal court.

b. Elisha announces the coming of a son to her (vv. 16, 17). Through inquiry he discovered that this woman was childless. This in that day was considered a great misfortune. He assured her that in about a year from that time she should experience the joy of motherhood.

3. The coming of sorrow to her home (vv. 18-21). The child which brought joy to her heart was suddenly taken away. The cause of his death was probably a sunstroke, for the heat of the sun at harvest time in that country is intense. When the child died she laid him upon the bed of the man of God. Her faith was such that she did not make preparation for burial but for restoration to life (Heb. 11:35).

4. The mother goes to Elisha (vv. 22-28). Happy is the one who in the days of prosperity and sunshine has so related himself to God and his prophets that help and sympathy can be given in time of trouble.

a. She took hold of Elisha's feet (v. 27). This was the eastern way of enforcing a petition.

b. She chided the prophet (v. 28). "Did I desire a son?" This implies that it would have been better not to have a child than to have lost him so soon.

5. The child restored (vv. 29-37).

a. Gehazi's fruitless errand (vv. 29-31). He hurried away and placed the prophet's staff upon the child's face, but it did not revive. Doubtless failure was due to his lack of faith.

b. Elisha's efficient service (vv. 32-37). He sent to the house where the dead child was and did two things.

(1) He prayed (v. 33). He knew that no one but God could help so he closed the door, shutting all others out.

(2) He stretched himself upon the child (v. 34). He brought his warm body in touch with the cold body of the child. God blesses and saves through the warm touch of those who are in touch with him.

III. Elisha Feeding One Hundred Men (vv. 42-44).

These hundred men were likely prophets of God. From the meager supply of twenty barley loaves and some ears of new corn these hundred men were fed. How like the deed of the Master in feeding five thousand with the barley loaves and small fishes.

Man Might Learn From Wild Life

Regard for Others' Rights Among Fine Traits of Birds and Beasts.

"Wild animals have a code of manners often comically like ours. They are frequently courteous, tender-hearted, and considerate to the point of being romantic. They possess that unembarrassed demeanor which is indicative of soul poise, and show on many occasions a behavior that indicates good taste.

"Being a good sport is, in a deep sense, showing good manners. And birds and animals have a gallantry of bearing that seems a part of their code of behavior. They bear disappointment, pain, death with a courage that is extraordinary. A certain grace of heart is theirs.

"One display of their good manners is the tolerance with which wild creatures regard one another. Of course there are fights, but these originate almost always in love rivalry. There are no social climbers, no business antagonists. There are no jealousies over place and power. But there does appear to be a consciousness of the rights of others. A huge dead pine with a series of hollows, one above the other, will be tenanted, during a single mating season, by pairs of bluebirds, black woodpeckers, flickers, foxgloves, screeching owls, and sparrow-hawks! These are six families of entirely different nationalities, yet all live happily, one above the other, in the same tenement. And make no mistake, the serenity is the result of genuine tact and etiquette!

"And the vagaries of falling in love! An observer of the human scene knows the impulse then to 'show off.' But while we like to impress the whole world with our su-

periority, a wild creature tries to appear exceptional only to the one by whom he wants to be loved. And all about us in the woods and fields and sky and grass one may observe an etiquette of loving. In much of the affection of wild mates for each other there is a tenderness of consideration that is clear evidence that they care for each other beyond the physical attraction. And take the cardinals, for instance, who mate for life; even in the dead of winter they remember love and carol to each other!"

Savoring somewhat of sarcasm, this paragraph sums up the reflections of a distinguished writer and thinker:

"It appears that those who want to be really civilized might take a tip from the birds and the beasts! And it seemed to me that passing on this information about them from the comments of that well-known naturalist, Archibald Rutledge, would certainly be of no less value to my readers than anything I could say to them."

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ROCKET FOR WRECK VICTIMS

The crew of a sinking ship forced to take to boats will have a better chance of being found by use of a rocket recently invented in Bremen, Germany. Tests have been satisfactory. The rocket works automatically when thrown into the water, and consequently can be operated by men who are floating the waves. It rises to a great height before it throws out

flares attached to a parachute, and these flares are visible for nearly two minutes.

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SEE HOW SIMPLE IT IS—READ THESE

EASY RULES

- 1 Anyone may compete, except employees of Procter & Gamble (and affiliated companies), the Union Central Life Insurance Co., and their families.
- 2 Write 100 words or less on "Why Camay Is the Best Beauty Soap for My Skin." Attach to your letter 3 green and yellow Camay wrappers or 3 copies. Write as many entries as you wish, but each must be accompanied by 3 Camay wrappers or copies and signed by the actual writer.
- 3 Print your name and address, and the name and address of your regular dealer or grocer on your letter.
- 4 The First Prize of \$1,000 a year for life will be awarded each Christmas Day, beginning Christmas, 1934, for the remainder of the winner's life to the contestant whose letter the judges think best. (If the winner elects, a lump sum of \$10,000 cash will be paid as First Prize in lieu of \$1,000 a year for life.) First Prize guaranteed by the Union Central Life Insurance Co. All prizes except First Prize are one-time cash payments.
- 5 Letters will be judged on the clearness, sincerity, and interest of the statements you make about Camay, and prizes will be awarded for the best letters meeting these requirements. Judges will be: Katharine Clayburger, Associate Editor, *Woman's Home Companion*; Hildegarde Fillmore, Beauty Editor, *McCall's Magazine*; Ruth Murrin, Beauty Editor, *Good Housekeeping Magazine*. The judges of this contest are unbiased. They will judge only the effectiveness of the arguments submitted. Their decisions shall be final and without recourse. In the event of a tie, identical prizes will be awarded to tying contestants. All entries submitted become the property of The Procter & Gamble Co.
- 6 Mail your entry to Camay, Dept. A, P. O. Box 629, Cincinnati, Ohio. Entries must be postmarked before midnight, October 15, 1934. Prize winners will be notified by mail as soon as possible after the contest closes. Contest applies to United States only and is subject to all provisions of Federal, State, and Local Regulations.

554 PRIZES! FOR LETTERS TELLING "Why Camay is the Best Beauty Soap for My Skin"

GRAND PRIZE, \$1,000 A YEAR FOR LIFE
(Guaranteed by The Procter & Gamble Co., and the Union Central Life Insurance Co.)
Or \$10,000 cash in a lump-sum payment, if the winner elects.

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3rd PRIZE \$750 cash in one payment
4th PRIZE \$250 cash in one payment
50 PRIZES OF \$100 each, cash in one payment
500 PRIZES OF \$10 each, cash in one payment



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WEAF and a Coast-to-Coast NBC Network "Dreams Come True" Radio Program. Hear Barry McKinley, sensational new singer, and more news about the contest. Every Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 2:00 p. m. and 4:45 p. m., E. S. T. (See newspapers for time of broadcast in your city.)

"It Keeps My Skin So Smooth"
Long before this contest was announced, one girl wrote, "My skin is delicate and to keep it soft and well-cleansed, I must use a soap of unusual mildness. That's why I prefer Camay to any other beauty soap. It keeps my skin so smooth and clear."
This letter may give you a hint for your entry.

Dreams Come True! **CAMAY** THE SOAP OF BEAUTIFUL WOMEN