

## WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

Nov.12

### MONDAY

The Moabites, expecting to find their enemy defeated, blunder into the camp of the three gathered armies who are ready for battle! They slaughter the Moabites and destroyed their cities.

#### **READ: 2 Kings 3:24-25**

Imagine how surprised the three kings and their combined forces must have been when the Moabite army comes charging into their midst. They don't come charging in with weapons waving; instead, they have their loot bags in hand and they're ready to scoop up the goods the armies have left to them. Defeating that crowd was child's play! The prophet's word is again verified. That, by the way, is always the story when we speak for God. His truth goes marching on, and God will be vindicated in every way! We can speak for God with confidence.

### TUESDAY

Seeing that defeat is upon him, the king of Moab takes 700 of his top fighters and tries to break thru to where the king of Edom is. That attempt fails. So, in desperation, the king sacrifices his oldest son right there on the city wall - evidently a sacrifice to the gods of the Moabites - hoping to gain their help and win the battle. The fighting ends and Israel goes back home.

#### **READ: 2 Kings 3:26-27**

So what is Jehoshaphat doing mixed up with the Moabites? He joined forces with a king who worships a god who demands child sacrifices! Did the king of Judah think that such evil would not in some way rub off on him? Did he think that he would not be burned by the fire or that the smell of it would stay off of him? "How did he not see that?" we ask. Listen, that sort of thing is still going on today. When we play with the fires of this world, we will get burned. No wonder God calls upon us to come and be separated unto Him, and to holy living, and to purity of thought and deed. Keep away from the Edomites wherever they may be, and whatever form they may take

### WEDNESDAY

A widow of one of the prophets asks Elisha for help. Her sons are about to be sold as slaves in order to pay her debts. He tells her to collect as many empty jars as she can and then to take the little oil which she has left at home and pours it into each jar. She does so, and amazingly, the flow of oil keeps coming until every jar is filled.

#### **READ: 2 Kings 4:1-7**

What is amazing to me is that this practice of having ones children serve as slaves in order to pay off any debts is permitted by Moses' Law. The Law required that the children be treated as if they were hired workers and not slaves, and that the servitude be limited to a fixed duration. But still...

The truth is that the Law was designed to teach mercy. God was saying to His people, "Don't allow anyone to fall into such poverty that he or she must give the children into servitude. Be generous with them. Lend them money."

### THURSDAY

Whenever Elisha traveled thru Shunem, he stayed with a well-to-do family there. They decided to make a special guest room for him. In return, Elisha asked them if he could intercede to the king on their behalf in any way. The wife replied by saying that she was safe and happy among her family and friends and she did not need or desire any favors from the king or anyone.

#### **READ: 2 Kings 4:8-13**

Reminds me of our friend, Terry. Her husband was an investor who was killed on 9/11. His Insurance policy left her over a million dollars. His investment company gave her another million so that she and her kids could be comfortable. The federal government joined in, and based on what her late-husband's salary had been, began giving her lots more money - they notified her that she'd get two and half million over the next four years. Terry told them to just forget about it - that she had more than enough already. She literally walked away from millions. For all of us, contentment with Godliness is a good thing. How's your contentment level today?

### FRIDAY

Elisha conferred with his servant Gehazi as to how they might return the kindness of the family, and he suggested that the Shunamite woman had no child and that her husband was old - apparently too old to father a child. So Elisha announced to her that she would have a baby.

#### **READ: 2 Kings 4:14-17**

Interesting, eh? The point is that with God, nothing is impossible. But there's another sub-point here as well: there are times when we must take the initiative and find creative ways to bless others. In other words, we need to be looking for ways. Thinking of ways. Alert to ways we may not have thought of on our own. While singing *Make me a blessing to someone today*, we must figure out how to make that a reality. And then get to it with much joy.

### SATURDAY

Some years later, the baby who had been born to the Shunamite woman, was working in the fields with his father when suddenly, he got a severe head-ache. He was carried home, and while his mother was holding him in her arms, he died.

#### **READ: 2 Kings 4:18-21**

Sadness beyond words. This miracle child - so loved by his parents - now taken from them so suddenly. But even now, this early in the story, something remarkable takes place: his mother lays him where? In the bed of the prophet in the guest room which they had made for him. It's an odd place to be the body of her dead son, unless... Do you see it? This Shunamite woman is remarkable indeed. She dares, at this moment, to recall the offer which Elisha had to her made years before - to do something for her. She dares to think that her son might live again! I'm quite convinced that Hebrews 11:35 has this woman in mind! What faith!

#107