

Sounds Week 1 - "It Is Well"

This week we step into one of the most spiritually dark seasons in Israel's history. The Northern Kingdom was steeped in idolatry, injustice, and violence, yet in the midst of national apostasy, a remnant remained faithful. In 2 Kings 4, we meet three such examples: a poor widow who turned to God's prophet instead of pagan gods, a wealthy Shunammite woman whose trust in God allowed her to say "it is well" even when her son died, and an Ephraimite from Baal-shalishah who brought his firstfruits to the Lord's prophet during a famine. Each shows us that "it is well" faith is rooted not in circumstances, but in knowing God's character. This faith is still alive and well today in God's people!

Discussion Questions

1. **What did the widow in 2 Kings 4:1–7 do when she faced losing her sons, and why is this important?**
 - She went to Elisha, the prophet of the Lord, instead of turning to pagan gods or political leaders.
 - **Application:** When you face urgent needs, where do you instinctively turn first? How can you build the habit of going to God before anywhere else?
2. **How did the Shunammite woman respond when her promised son died? (2 Kings 4:22–26)**
 - She said, "It is well," both to her husband and to Gehazi, even though her son had died.
 - **Application:** How do you respond when faced with loss or crisis? What would it look like to speak and live "it is well" faith in your current challenges?
3. **What makes the Ephraimite from Baal-shalishah's gift in 2 Kings 4:42–44 remarkable?**
 - He brought his firstfruits to Elisha during a famine, even though his region was known for idolatry, and his town's name contained "Baal."
 - **Application:** How can you practice generosity when resources feel limited? What might God be inviting you to trust Him with in this area?
4. **What do these three examples teach us about God's character?**
 - God pays debts, gives life, reverses death, heals, and feeds His people. Even in times of national rebellion, God sought the good of His people and responded to their faith.
 - **Application:** Which aspect of God's character in this chapter do you most need to remember and rely on this week?
5. **Why is knowing God's character essential for "it is well" faith?**
 - Each person's trust in God flowed from knowing who He is, not from their circumstances. "It is well" faith rests in God's sovereignty, goodness, and provision, regardless of visible outcomes.
 - **Application:** How can you deepen your knowledge of God so that your faith remains steady in hardship?

Prayer Prompts

- **For Kyle & Megan's family:** Pray for comfort, strength, and an unshakable awareness of God's presence as they care for Poppy and Oliver. Ask for God's provision and peace beyond understanding.
- **For steadfast faith:** Ask God to help each person in your group trust His character in times of need, loss, or scarcity.
- **For courage to stand apart:** Pray that we would be like the faithful remnant—turning to God, serving Him generously, and rejecting cultural idols.