

# Elijah & Elisha #7

## Water, Oil, & Resurrection

*II Kings 3-4*

Mark Crawford  
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We are in a series of the Old Testament prophets, Elijah and Elisha. In the OT, there was a time when they had kings and then the nation split into two kingdoms, North (Israel), and South (Judah). The prophets engaged the kings of Israel at that time, specifically King Ahab and Jezebel (the lowest point of Israel's history). When Ahab dies, his son Joram becomes king. Today we will look at three stories water, oil, and resurrection from this time found in **II Kings 3 & 4.**

### Jill's Notes

A prophet is someone who is called by God to speak God's truth into the present moment so God's people can return to him and live toward his promised future.

This slide is from 2 weeks ago in Eric's notes. A prophet's truth helps us live into God's future.

### Jill's Notes

"In the OT, these prophets are messengers of God and they give people God's messages. Moses is considered the greatest prophet and refers to Jesus coming in the New Testament. Jesus fulfills the truth of God: He IS the truth of God. If you follow Jesus by saying you need Him for the forgiveness of sin, you are Spirit-empowered. You have the Spirit upon you: you don't have to have an office in the church; all believers still have prophetic callings."

(This is from these notes taken two weeks ago.) Today, like Elijah and Elisha, if you believe in Jesus, you also have the Spirit and can speak a prophetic word, God's truth, into someone's life so they can live into God's future. This is what OT prophets did!

*When we engage with/as a prophet we engage with the Spirit of God.*

I am a parent of three children who have all been sick in the last month. This also applies to many of you as well. A question parents commonly have is when do we call the doctor? What is the moment that I know when to do this? The two doctors I call are my dad and my brother who are on speed dial. But I still have to make this decision: the fever is 100 degrees: I don't call the doctor. But now it's 102; do I call now?

### Water, Oil, and Resurrection

1. What drives people to seek the prophet?
2. What do they receive?
3. How does Elisha point to Jesus?

**What drives people to call the prophet?** When does this moment happen? What do they receive? How does Elisha point toward God in these stories? Let's keep these questions in mind as we go through these three stories.

## Water

2 Kings 3

Wandering

Direction

Jesus is the Water of Life

Ahab has died, Joram is king, and Moab doesn't want to pay tributes any longer and so Joram calls the Southern King Jehoshaphat. Together, **(without asking the Lord)** they travel through Edom and pick up the king of Edom as well..and they travel seven days and end up in a valley with no water.

Now, even when I am at the zoo with my kids, I plan to take water with us even though I know there are drinking fountains there. We live in the desert: the heat makes us tired. And yet these kings had no water: they cannot fight Moab. But the prophets say God has not brought them this far to let them die.

Notice that Jehoshaphat didn't inquire of God before he left on this trip. **The moment when he finally decides to call on God was this moment of thirst in the desert.** Jehoshaphat asks if there might be a prophet of the Lord to ask: and Elisha happened to be there and talks with God and to find out that the next day, the dry valley would be filled with water and their enemy would be defeated. **And it happened and in the midst of their foolishness they receive direction and hope.** It's a crazy story of foolishness and wandering and yet God was there, offering direction.

## Water

*John 4:10-14* – ...Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

Jesus, the greatest prophet, is the water of life. Jesus says this to the Samaritan woman in **John 4.**

## Oil

2 Kings 4:1-7

Enslavement

Freedom

Jesus gives us the Spirit

The next story is from **II Kings 4.** There is a company of prophets following Elisha and Elijah around and one of them dies leaving his wife a widow with sons who are going to be sold into slavery. The woman calls for the prophet when she is enslaved. **In this low moment,** she cries out and she receives instructions from Elisha: Take many jars which would be filled with oil to pay off debts. When she did this, she received freedom and hope from the prophet.

As we walk towards Pentecost next week, I keep thinking of the anointing that happened on Pentecost when the Spirit was poured out on believers.

## Oil

*John 14:15-17* – "If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you."

This is reiterated in **John 14.** We have an anointing upon us for the freedom from sin from this world, the freedom in the Spirit.

## Resurrection

2 Kings 4:8-37

Despair

Hope

Jesus is the Resurrection

Do you hear the echoes of Elijah in Elisha's ministry? The stories are evern similar. In **II Kings 4**, Elisha goes to Shunam and there is a woman who invites him to have a meal with her family. She decides to build a place for Elisha to stay whenever he comes through Shunam. I love her faith: she recognizes the man of God and desires to care for him. (Notice how much better Elisha has it over Elijah who lived in rough places!!) Elisha has a family caring for his physical needs. But later, this woman has no sons and her husband is old and she is alone and reliant on a community that is not walking in the ways of God. Elisha tells her she will have a son and she does. Years later, her son has a headache, collapses, and dies and Elisha is not there. His mother saddles her horse to find Elisha: She doesn't reveal what is happening but he knows she is distressed. Elisha sends his servant to lay Elisha's staff on the boy but the woman declares she won't leave Elisha. Elisha's staff didn't work so Elisha himself goes to the boy and the son is saved.

**What was the moment that drove her to seek the prophet?** It's her loss; the prophet gives her hope.

On Easter, we talked about Mary in the garden: earlier, Lazarus had died and Mary and Martha met Jesus. You hear echoes in this story of the Shunamite woman:

## Resurrection

*John 11:20-27* – ...Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?" "Yes, Lord," she replied, "I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world."

Jesus weeps with Mary and then raises Lazarus. Do you hear her despair? "If you had been here...I made a space for you and you weren't here.' But hope returns with Jesus.

The reality is that if we are in the Spirit, we can offer prophetic ministry into the lives of others. We do this by looking back at Jesus. How do we practice the prophetic? Let's go over some steps:

## Practice the Prophetic

Practice seeing others: Wandering, Enslavement, Despair

Ask the Spirit: How would Jesus see them? What does Jesus offer?

Offer the Spirit with care: Presence, Comfort, Encouragement

First, **practice seeing others in their wandering and in their foolishness**. Often, we can see enslavement and addiction in ourselves but not in others. Practice seeing this in others.

But before we jump into fix it, we must **PAUSE ask the Spirit what Jesus offers them**.

## II Kings 3: 14-16

<sup>14</sup>Elisha said, “As surely as the LORD Almighty lives, whom I serve, if I did not have respect for the presence of Jehoshaphat king of Judah, I would not pay any attention to you. <sup>15</sup>But now bring me a harpist.”

While the harpist was playing, the hand of the LORD came on Elisha <sup>16</sup>and he said, “This is what the LORD says: I will fill this valley with pools of water.

Can you imagine the dismay in these thirsty people when Elisha paused and asked for a harpist? He saw people in their foolishness and offered them compassion. He doesn't necessarily offer them a fix.

Jesus offers his presence, comfort, and encouragement. Sometimes, all we need to offer someone else is our presence. The Spirit is the spirit of comfort! To encourage someone is to lift them up. Often when we want to speak a prophetic word, these simple practices will lift them up.