

Sermon Study Guide – March 26th, 2023

Today's Focus: "Life for the Dead"

1) Thoughts to get you started...

- ◆ As we conclude our series, "Our Greatest Needs", what problems does death pose, and what needs does it produce?
- ◆ What are the various solutions to death that our world promotes? What is Christ's solution, and how does it differ?

2) Today's Message: 2 Kings 4 (see bulletin for full text)

²⁰ After the servant had lifted him up and carried him to his mother, the boy sat on her lap until noon, and then he died. ²¹ She went up and laid him on the bed of the man of God, then shut the door and went out. ²² She called her husband and said, "Please send me one of the servants and a donkey so I can go to the man of God quickly and return..."

²⁷ When she reached the man of God at the mountain, she took hold of his feet. Gehazi came over to push her away, but the man of God said, "Leave her alone! She is in bitter distress, but the LORD has hidden it from me and has not told me why." ²⁸ "Did I ask you for a son, my lord?" she said. "Didn't I tell you, 'Don't raise my hopes'?" ²⁹ Elisha said to Gehazi, "Tuck your cloak into your belt, take my staff in your hand and run. Don't greet anyone you meet, and if anyone greets you, do not answer. Lay my staff on the boy's face." ³⁰ But the child's mother said, "As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you." So he got up and followed her...

³² When Elisha reached the house, there was the boy lying dead on his couch. ³³ He went in, shut the door on the two of them and prayed to the LORD. ³⁴ Then he got on the bed and lay on the boy, mouth to mouth, eyes to eyes, hands to hands. As he stretched himself out on him, the boy's body grew warm. ³⁵ Elisha turned away and walked back and forth in the room and then got on the bed and stretched out on him once more. The boy sneezed seven times and opened his eyes. ³⁶ Elisha summoned Gehazi and said, "Call the Shunammite." And he did. When she came, he said, "Take your son." ³⁷ She came in, fell at his feet and bowed to the ground. Then she took her son and went out.

3) What does God want you to know today?

Throughout the sermon, consider...

How does today's sermon show your sin? (i.e. What's the law?)

How does today's sermon show your Savior? (i.e. What's the gospel?)

Law:

Gospel:

Answer the following questions as you follow the sermon...

1. What challenges did the Shunammite woman face, both before and after God's gift of a child.
2. How did the Shunammite woman respond to these challenges, both before and after God's gift of a child?
3. How does "Life for the Dead" fulfill one of our greatest needs?
4. How is God's version of "Life for the Dead" different from the world's version?
5. Like the Shunammite woman, how can we show that we are "clinging to God" more than anyone or anything else?
6. Why do we celebrate Easter every year, without fail?

4) Taking it Home:

Read these sections of the Bible to reinforce this week's truths:

Monday: *read/review* John 11

Thursday: John 13:1-14:3

Tuesday: *review* Psalm 116, Acts 20:7-12

Friday: *read/review* 2 Kings 4

Wednesday: Romans 8:1-19

Saturday: 2 Kings 13