

MAY 3

The Woman From Shunem, Hebrew word meaning “Double resting-place” 2 Kings 4

I Will Make Room

By Sista Elysa Neal

“I know that this man who often comes our way is a holy man of God. Let’s make a small room... Then he can stay there whenever he comes to us” (2 Kings 4:9-10).

In the time of the divided Israelite kingdom, there lived a woman in the little village of Shunem, or the “double resting-place.” The woman was married and unable to have children. She was also wealthy and lived among the northern tribes of Israel, which had been split from the southern tribes as a judgment from God for their unwillingness to walk in His ways. Despite the sorrows, troubles, and chaos that had come her way and could have taken her focus away from God, the Shunammite woman’s eyes remained fixed. While others around her set their hearts on idols, she desired after the Lord.

When Elisha the prophet came to her village, the Shunammite woman recognized that he was a holy man of God, and she urged him to come into her and home and eat. From that day on, whenever Elisha came to visit, he would stay for a meal. Eventually, she asked her husband for a room to be made on their roof for the prophet, to which he agreed. So, the Shunammite woman continued to serve Elisha, blessing him with her gift of hospitality and, through him, blessing God.

Distractions, temptations, and promises of pleasure are all around us today, but God is looking for ***“any who understand, who seek after [Him]” (Ps. 14:2).*** Many reject His grace, salvation, and promise of a relationship, so just imagine the joy He feels when someone compels Him to come and stay with them and eat. Indeed, He will, for He says, ***“I stand at the door and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me” (Rev. 3:20).*** He wants to reside with you. Your hopes, your fears, your struggles and triumphs—He wants to be part of them all! But you have to make room.

Let’s pray: Dear Lord, help us to make room in our hearts for You. Whatever is in us that’s keeping us from welcoming You with hospitality and obedience, we ask You to remove it. Help us to trust that when you come to visit, You won’t judge us for the mess we’ve made and the rooms we’ve left neglected but that You’ll make all things new.

In Jesus’ name we pray.

Amen.

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above....James 1:17