**Bible/College Class Notes – *Studies in 1 and 2 Kings* – Lesson 123**

Sin and its Cure

**This week** – Only Almighty God has the cure for our sin through Christ’s death and resurrection. **NOTES**

**Aim - To learn about the tragic effect of sin and death on the soul. To show that, just as Elisha restored the widow’s son to life, so the Lord Jesus Christ is willing and able to give spiritual life to our lifeless souls.**

**To quicken us and give us new birth and faith to repent and trust in Jesus Christ as our Savior.**

**Elisha went in, and shut the door … and prayed unto the LORD… and the flesh of the child waxed (became) warm. *2 Kings 4v33,34.***

**Meeting Death – The Shunammite’s Son.**

**The Shunammite Woman** – A Sincere, Faithful, Believer.

She arranged for a room to be built for Elisha, the man of God, to stay in when he passed that way. **2 Kings 4v10.**

***“Let us make a little chamber, I pray thee, on the wall; and let us set for him there a bed, and a table, and a stool, and a candlestick: and it shall be, when he cometh to us, that he shall turn in thither.”***

**Elisha appreciated their kindness.**

She and her husband were old, and they had no children.

**They had given up all hope of having any children.**

**Elisha became aware that they had no children.**

***Elishah said to her, “About this season, according to the time of life, thou shalt embrace a son.”***

So, God answered Elisha’s prayer and miraculously provided her and her husband with a son late in life.

**A very special son in her old age.**

**A Sudden Death – A Few Years Later.**

**The Boy Unexpectedly Died**. He was working with his father out in the field and became very ill.

He cried out in extreme pain. He was carried to his mother.

**2**

**But sadly, he died in her arms.**

**Picture,** as he lay in his mother's arms the heat of his body cooled, his lips became silent, and his ears unhearing. Never again would she welcome him home, watch him play or put him to bed. She could do nothing. It was too late to call the doctor. Nothing could bring him back again.

**You can imagine how distraught she was.**

She must have asked herself, **“Why has this happened?”**

**This incident reminds us that we all must die.**

**Death is always a solemn, sad, and horrible affair.**

**We all know the solemn words in the Bible,**

***The wages of sin is death.* Romans 6v23.**

**We must not hide from this fact.**

**A Picture of Spiritual Death** –

We remember that sin entered the world when Adam sinned. **The punishment was death.**

**Spiritual separation from God with immediate effect.**

**Physical death would certainly come to all mankind**.

***“Wherefore, as by one man (Adam) sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.“* Romans 5v12.**

**Although we are alive physically,**

we are born with our souls dead towards God.

**Being spiritually dead means**

that we are unable to make any move towards God.

**We are very thankful that**

God never intended that death should reign in the world.

**Romans 6v23** concludes with the gracious words, ***“But the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”***

**Physical death is a picture of spiritual death.**

**There is one aspect of physical death that can be very helpful to us. Physical death can be a very dramatic picture of spiritual death. It can help us to understand that even while we are still physically alive, brimming with energy, our souls may be dead.**

**3**

**We can draw parallels from the incident of the Shunamite woman’s son who died.**

**The Bible teaches us that God,** our heavenly father, who has given each one of us life,

looks down on us kindly looking for our affection.

**But instead,** He sees lifeless souls,

(just like the young boy’s lifeless corpse).

When the boy was alive his mother loved to see him running about, active, talking and laughing,

**But since he was dead,**

she was filled with grief at the sight of his corpse.

**God made us for his glory**

and looks for signs of his own likeness in us.

**But instead of seeing humility, kindness, truthfulness and purity,**

**He sees pride, selfishness, greed, lies and hatred.**

**He created us to live for Him a worthwhile, useful and fulfilling life.**

**But our souls are as cold as a dead body to God.**

**We are dead in trespasses and sin. Ephesians 2v1.**

**God’s Miraculous Intervention.**

1. **The mother went urgently to Elisha who was about 25 miles away.**

She found it hard to accept that God should give her

this son and then take him away in death.

She hoped that Elisha could bring help from God,

even to restore the young boy's life.

***We must go urgently to the Lord and His Word.***

***Only He has the ‘Words of Eternal Life’.***

1. **Elisha sent his servant Gehazi ahead.** But he could not bring the boy back to life.

**Pastor, and we as your teachers, cannot save you.**

***No man-made solution or method can succeed***

***in renewing our relationship with God.***

**4**

**Elisha came**. She stayed with him

believing that only God could bring life to her son.

***We must look to the Lord. He is the only One who can ‘quicken’ us, renewing our dead soul.***

**Elisha went to the boy.**

***Reminding us that the Lord Jesus came from Heaven***

***to die on Calvary to save us.***

**Elisha prayed to God**. He knew that **only** God, The Prince of Life, could restore life.

***We, your teachers, pray that the Lord will give you this life, taking away the deadness of unbelief.***

**Elisha ‘gave’ himself to the boy**.

He stretched himself over the boy’s dead body.

Mouth to mouth, eye to eye, hand to hand.

***The Lord Jesus gave Himself to live a perfect life and then to be punished for His People’s sin.***

**The boys’ body became warm.**

Amazingly, signs of life began to appear.

***Maybe you are beginning to listen more carefully and pray to the Lord more earnestly.***

**Elisha was not content**.

He stretched himself again over the boy’s body.

***We must persist in our sincerity of repentant prayers until the Lord hears and answers.***

**As your teachers we are not content until we see real signs of spiritual life in you. A real conversion.**

**A noticeable change in your interests and behaviour.**

**Listening very carefully. Attending Church.**

**Praying and reading your Bible. Asking questions.**

**The boy ‘awoke’** as if he had only been asleep.

He sneezed 7 times. ***“Take up thy son”***

***The awakened soul grasps what lengths Christ went to, to rescue us from the jaws of death.***

**5**

**The Amazing Steps of Spiritual Awakening** –

**From Death to Life.**

From birth our souls are spiritually dead towards God. **We need God’s help.**

**The Holy Spirit quickens, breathes life into our souls,**

giving us faith to believe.

We are ‘**Born Again’**, made **alive** towards God.

**Born from above.** Converted. Saved for Eternity.

Our spiritual eyes and understanding are enlightened so that we love His Word, want to read it, attend services – Gospel, Teaching, Bible Study.

We now love the Saviour and want to worship

and serve Him every day.

**Have you ever had this wonderful experience? Previously you may have thought it was utterly impossible for the dead to live,**

**yet with God nothing is impossible.**

**Down through the centuries of time the most unlikely people have been converted and brought to spiritual life by the Lord.**

**He will continue this great work until the world ends when Christ returns as judge.**

**All for whom Christ died on the cross will be saved.**

***Paul wrote,***

***“But God, Who is rich in mercy, for His great love wherewith He loved us, even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ …***

***For by grace ye are saved through faith;***

***and that not of yourselves:***

***it is the gift of God:***

***Not of works, lest any man should boast.* Ephesians 2 vs4,5,8, and 9.**

**6**

**Important Lesson for us Today:**

**Can and does God perform miracles today?**

**Yes,** because He never changes.

**BUT** a careful study of God’s Word shows that He only performed these miracles at special times, through selected faithful men.

**We use the term ‘Sign Miracles’,**

as they were to authenticate the person God used –

e.g. Moses, Elijah, Elisha, The Apostles.

Some of these men were also used of God to write Scripture under the inspiration of The Holy Spirit.

The Lord Jesus Christ performed many miracles

to demonstrate that He is God.

**Now that we have The Bible,** God’s completed Word, we have all we need to know.

So, we no longer need men working miracles today.

God can still answer prayer in a miraculous way –

e.g. to heal a sick person etc.

**BUT He does not use men today** to perform miracles in the way He did in Bible times.

**The greatest miracle that God performs today**

is that of the Holy Spirit quickening **(renewing a spiritually dead heart)** to cause the person to repent and believe in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour.

**Read and meditate on Ephesians 2v1-8.**