

2 Kings 4:18-37 NIV

Mission Possible: The LORD Restores Life!

Sunday, October 20 at 9:00 (we return to 8:00 & 10:45 on 10/27)

Monday, October 21 at 7 PM

22nd Sunday After Pentecost / 21st After Trinity – 2013

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: Today is our third and final sermon on the topic of **Mission Possible!**

- **First** (vv. 1-7): When a widow had a debt she could not pay, and her sons were about to be enslaved, *the LORD worked a miracle to provide her needs!*
- **Second** (vv. 8-17): When a woman had no son and her husband was as good as dead, *the LORD worked a miracle to give her a son!*
- **Today** (vv. 18-37): When the miracle-child dies, His mother continues to believe that the LORD can do anything – *even restore the child's life!*

May today's sermon encourage us to also trust in the LORD for everything, *even when the situation seems impossible!*

1. **The Miracle-Child Dies:** Today's reading is a *true story* which took place about 2,900 years ago in a village in northern Israel called Shunem.
 - a. **18** **The child grew, and one day he went out to his father, who was with the reapers.** ¹⁹ "My head! My head!" he said to his father. His father told a servant, "Carry him to his mother." 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 [today we are so blessed with good medical care, but there was no hospital or doctor in Shunem].

²¹ She went up and laid him on the bed of the man of God [the bed the woman and her husband had provided for Elisha, a prophet of LORD, whenever he was passing through Shunem], then [she] shut the door and went out. // The LORD had given her a son, yet now he was dead! (see Edersheim, 102)

- b. **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." ²³ "Why go to him today?" he asked. "It's not the New Moon or the Sabbath [...the times when religious assemblies were held and the people came to the prophets for instruction." (Kretzmann, 610)]." "It's all right [thus "Never mind, don't worry!" (ibid.)]," she said [she wanted nothing to delay her in reaching Elisha, God's representative]. ²⁴ She saddled the donkey and said to her servant, "Lead on; don't slow down for me unless I tell you." ^{25a} So she set out and came to the man of God at Mount Carmel. // As the LORD gave the boy life through Elisha, so she believed the LORD could restore the boy to life through Elisha! (Ed., 111)

2. His Mother Informs Elisha:

- a. **25b** When he [Elisha] saw her in the distance, the man of God said to his servant Gehazi, "Look! There's the Shunammite [the woman from Shunem]! ²⁶ Run to meet her and ask her, 'Are you all right? Is your husband all right? Is your child all right?'" "Everything is all right," she said. // Rather than take time to tell Elisha's servant, Gehazi, she wanted to speak directly to Elisha!
- b. **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 [the LORD knows everything – then and today; He knows about our sin and our need for JESUS].”²⁸ “Did I ask you for a son, my lord?” she said. “Didn’t I tell you, ‘Don’t raise my hopes?’” // The woman thought having a son would be impossible, *but the LORD granted it!* Then the child died; she may have thought: *Better no child at all than a dead child!*

3. **Elisha Quickly Sends Gehazi:**

- a. ²⁹ **Elisha said to Gehazi, “Tuck your cloak into your belt, take my staff in your hand and run. If you meet anyone, do not greet him, and if anyone greets you, do not answer** [don’t delay for a moment]. **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.”** [Elisha, I want you to come!] **So he got up and followed her.** // Remember, the LORD had previously worked through the woman to bless Elisha with food and shelter, *so Elisha wanted the LORD to work through him to bless the woman – to raise the child!*
- b. ³¹ **Gehazi went on ahead and laid the staff on the boy’s face, but there was no sound or response. So Gehazi went back to meet Elisha** [who was on his way] **and told him, “The boy has not awakened.”** // The child was not ill *but dead!* Also, *the LORD had chosen to work through Elisha, not the staff!*

4. **Nothing Is Impossible for the LORD:**

- a. 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.** [Elisha himself could do nothing; he was dependent upon the LORD, so he prayed to the LORD; **Ed., 112.**]

³⁴ **Then he got on the bed and lay upon the boy, mouth to mouth, eyes to eyes, hands to hands. As he stretched himself out upon him, the boy’s body grew warm.**³⁵ **Elisha turned away and walked back and forth in the room** [maybe to warm his body, so he could warm the boy’s body] **and then [he] got on the bed and stretched out upon him once more. The boy sneezed seven times and opened his eyes.** // The ritual may sound foolish, but Elisha did what the LORD said; *then the LORD restored the boy’s life!*

- b. 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.** // *She must have overflowed with gratitude* (**Ed., 113**)! Regarding spiritual life (**Ed., 114**)!

Conclusion: The Triune God is still the LORD God Almighty; **He can do what seems impossible!** Whenever it is His will, He can *give life and restore life!* The LORD can ♦provide every need and ♦heal every broken relationship!

The LORD especially desires to save us from our sins! Jesus has already lived and died to remove our sins; now, *God is calling all people to be sorry and believe in Jesus as their Savior!*

We should all do our best to be good, *but our goodness can never get us into heaven.* Therefore, God – *who can do the impossible* – made the one way to heaven through Jesus! The Bible says: “**For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.**” (John 3:16 NAS) **See the Lutheran Study Bible note, 4:18-37, 585.**

If I can help you +better understand the Bible or +become certain of heaven through Jesus, *please let me know!*