



**TRUE**

*Contentment*

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# “In the winning and the losing” DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE - May 3rd, 2020

**WARM UP QUESTION (5-10 min):** How does it feel to win? How does it feel to suffer loss?

**READ:** [2 Kings 4:8-35](#)

**FOCUS:** True Contentment Comes When I Learn to Worship God in the Winning and in the Losing

## **OBSERVE (10 minutes)**

### **1) Contentment in the Win (vs 8-17)**

- The Shunamite was wealthy, had a husband, and lived amidst the safety of ‘her own people’ referring to her kinsmen.
- The Shunamite woman was aware of Elisha’s travels. She was proactive in her worship by 1) urging Elisha to eat food and 2) by preparing a room in advance for the prophet.
- She gave her first and best as a wealthy woman preparing a room on her flat roof (which was common for guests), but ‘with walls’ and furnishings, making it permanently accessible rather than a guest room. (vs 10)

- Elisha summoned her to reward her for “going to all this trouble” for them. Elisha demonstrates God’s power seeing the unspoken desire of her heart (a son) and His character of being a rewarder of those who earnestly seek Him. ([See Hebrews 11:6](#))
- In summary: she was content to worship God because of who He is and not because of her circumstance.

### **2) Contentment in the Loss (vs 18-37)**

- Contentment did not mean accepting the circumstance. She went in haste and bitter distress, regardless of cultural norms (new moons and Sabbaths).

- Elisha did not foresee her son's death. Prophets are not omniscient but always depend on God's revelation in the moment.
- She went in haste to Elisha and Gehazi was sent likewise, in haste, meaning God responded in kind.
- She chose faith and life as she insisted she would stay with the LORD and Elisha who *live*.
- Elisha *himself* went to the dead boy. The dead boy was in Elisha's bed. God takes our losses personally.
- As the jars in vs 1-7 were miraculously filled in private, the boy was miraculously raised to life in private.

### 3) Contentment in the Resurrector

- Worship of the Resurrector God was the mother's response to the resurrection. The loss was redeemed.
- We can be content in our losses because of the God who resurrects and redeems.
- God raised Jesus securing eternal life for all who believe. He turns losses into life. ([John 11:25](#))

### REFLECT AND DISCUSS (30 min)

- The Shunamite woman was wealthy and had a husband, in contrast to the poor widow of vs 1-7. What did they have in common as shared experiences? How did they respond?
- The Shunamite woman was constantly prepared to receive Elisha in her home. How do you prepare on a weekly basis to meet with God?
- Elisha, as prophet, is representing God in these scriptures. What can we learn about God's heart toward us in Elisha's actions?

### TAKE ACTION

- Thank God for your wins
- When you suffer loss go to God for your redemption
- In the process give thanks ([Phil 4:5-7](#))
- Worship God because He is ever present ([Psalm 46:1-3](#))

### PRAY TOGETHER (10 min)

- Heavenly Father, thank you for being my ever present help in time of triumph and need. I am blessed and content because you are with me. Help me to worship you in every season as you work all for your glory and my good. In Jesus name, amen.

*"I think the reason we sometimes have the false sense that God is so far away is because that is where we have put him. We have kept him at a distance, and then when we are in need and call on him in prayer, we wonder where he is. He is exactly where we left him." - Ravi Zacharias*