

Bible Way Church

OF ATLAS ROAD

Tuesday, May 20, 2008

"Just Speak Life"

2 Kings 4:26 (NKJV/NIV)

Proverbs 18:21 (NKJV)

Darrell Jackson, Sr., Pastor

- Two weeks ago we shared a message, "Just Send a Word". That message stressed the power of the spoken word.
- We considered how we are empowered by the words the Lord had spoken on our behalf concerning the situations we are going through.
- Sometimes He speaks a word of deliverance, a word of transformation, or a word of healing.
- Tonight we will discuss how we, as believers, are empowered by our own words; the words we speak about ourselves concerning our own situations; words that come out our own mouths. Not the words other people say about us, but the words we say about ourselves.
- Recently, God reminded me that the most hurtful thing that was ever said *about* me was said *by* me.
- These were words that depressed me and held me in captivity.
- However, I decided that I was no longer going to assist the enemy in destroying my life.
- This transformation began when I changed the words I spoke about myself and my destiny.
- I decided to just speak life.
- In our scriptural text, we have a great example of a woman who had the faith to speak life even when the situation looked like death.
- Our text involves a woman known by biblical scholars as the Shunammite woman, because she and her family lived in the town of Shunem.

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- The Prophet Elisha had a personal relationship with this woman and her family.
- According to the text, when Elisha was in town, he lived with this family.
- It was the Prophet Elisha who prophesied to this woman that she and her husband would be blessed in their old age with a son.
- Because of her faith in the word that was spoken, she became pregnant and gave birth to a son.
- What happens next is both heart-rending and uplifting.
- The son that this woman waited so long for suddenly became ill and died in his mother's lap.
- How this Shunammite woman responded to this crisis serves to inspire all who are faced with crises in their lives.
- Verse 21 reads that she took her dead son and laid him on the prophet's bed, closed the door and went to Mt. Carmel to see Elisha; the man who had prayed with her for a son.
- As she approached Mt. Carmel, Elisha sent his servant, Gehazi, to meet her. He asked her these three questions:
 1. Is it well with you?
 2. Is it well with your husband?
 3. Is it well with your child?
- She responded, "It Is Well".
- In spite of her situation, this wonderful woman chose to speak out of faith and not out of fear.
- She chose to *speak life*, not death.
- Proverbs 18:21 declares, "Death and life are in the power of the tongue".
- So, "Just Speak Life".