

God Notices

2 Kings 4:8-17

Introduction

Do you ever feel like going out into the back yard, looking up at the heavens and just crying out, “Are you listening God?”

I must confess that I have done exactly that before.

Even our Lord when He was dieing on the cross exclaimed, “My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?”

We all have our moments when we feel as though God just isn’t paying attention. We feel as if our prayers, our needs and even our good **deeds are going completely un-noticed by God.**

Deism – God winds us up and lets us to go and go and go.

We all have times when we feel like we are just out of the loop. We feel as though God just isn’t letting us in on His plans. We sometimes feel like **strangers in our own world.**

So, does God even notice?

Scripture - 2 Kings 4:8-17

⁸ One day Elisha went to Shunem. And a well-to-do woman was there, who urged him to stay for a meal. So whenever he came by, he stopped there to eat. ⁹ She said to her husband, “I know that this man who often comes our way is a holy man of God. ¹⁰ Let’s make a small room on the roof and put in it a bed and a table, a chair and a lamp for him. Then he can stay there whenever he comes to us.”

¹¹ One day when Elisha came, he went up to his room and lay down there. ¹² He said to his servant Gehazi, “Call the Shunammite.” So he called her, and she stood before him. ¹³ Elisha said to him, “Tell her, ‘You have gone to all this trouble for us. Now what can be done for you? Can we speak on your behalf to the king or the commander of the army?’”

She replied, “I have a home among my own people.”

¹⁴ “What can be done for her?” Elisha asked.

Gehazi said, “Well, she has no son and her husband is old.”

¹⁵ Then Elisha said, “Call her.” So he called her, and she stood in the doorway. ¹⁶ “About this time next year,” Elisha said, “you will

hold a son in your arms.” “No, my lord,” she objected. “Don’t mislead your servant, O man of God!”

¹⁷ *But the woman became pregnant, and the next year about that same time she gave birth to a son, just as Elisha had told her. 2 Kings 4:8-17 NIV*

Content

Today, I want you to know that **God does notice.** Not only does He notice, He makes provisions to **answer our cries of desperation** and even more.

I would like for us to reflect upon the text for the day and realize that God notices even **more keenly than we can ever imagine.**

God notices everything. I am hesitant to make the points of this sermon because I realize that God notices so much more than I can imagine. There is no way I can really address what God notices in a three point sermon, as I have no clue to the extent God manages the affairs of His children.

But these three things I do understand about what God notices.

1. God Notices Your Faithfulness

We see that this otherwise **ordinary woman was kind,** generous and strong in her faith. She urged Elisha to come and eat at her house. She later got the idea to put a **room on her roof for Elisha** and obtained her husband’s approval.

We can tell that the woman took great joy in having Elisha and Gehazi in her home. Obviously she did not mind the inconvenience and valued having the man of God in her home.

Clearly, this was a ministry to her. By being a blessing to this man and his ministry, **she was serving God with her actions.**

Every single one of us should be able to point to something that we know is our way of serving God. I have heard people say, “I can’t do much, but I can do this...” We must all find a way to minister in the name of Jesus Christ, and not limit God.

What is your ministry? What is it that you do to bring glory and honor to our Lord?

God’s Word is careful to describe the Shunammite woman’s acts of generosity towards Elisha. Clearly this is evidence that God noticed her faithfulness.

God chose to insure that this **account made it into the Holy Scriptures**. Rest assured God notices when you and I find the **avenue in our lives that we can truly, unselfishly serve Him**. It may not seem like something large but God notices when others may not.

God notices this woman's faithfulness and rewards it by having Elisha ask her what he can do for her.

2. God Notices Your Heart's Desires

When Elisha inquires about what they can do for her, the woman gives a interesting answer, ***"I have a home among my own people."***

This is an indicator that the woman was satisfied being among family and friends. She did not desire great fame or further wealth as she was content to be with family & friends.

Illus: How often we ask someone a question and get an dishonest answer. We know we are getting an answer that means something like this, "There is no sense in going into my real hurts and needs. You won't understand and you can't help so why drag it all out."

Yet we further discover that through the words of Elisha's servant that **she did have a deep need and desire**. Notice that it was the servant **Gehazi who made the observation** and brought it to Elisha's attention. There could be another complete sermon on how God uses everyone, not just the official "man of God."

When Elisha tells her she will have a son in one year, **her response speaks volumes**.

"No, my lord," she objected. "Don't mislead your servant, O man of God!" vs. 16

You can almost hear her saying, "Oh no don't go there. Don't bring up all of that pain again."

In that day, **a woman with no children was considered inferior** and a woman with a boy was considered blessed. Her response shows us that the woman carried a **deep grief inside**.

She obviously had a strong desire to have a son but had accepted life without that blessing. **She carries a precious dream** inside and her response is to say, "don't get my hopes up falsely."

Surely her hopes had been raised in the past. She did not want to experience the disappointing sadness again. **She had been down that road before**.

But this time it would be different. God knew her desires and He was now making her a promise. **Her dearest, most heart felt dream was about to become a reality**.

Illus: Just as in the case of the Shunammite woman, God wants to deal with us by going right to the heart of our struggles. He is more interested in you opening up with Him than playing church.

What is your hearts desire? God has already noticed it and he makes provisions to satisfy you. It may not be in the manner you expect but please know that God notices!

God notices the faithfulness and desires of the heart!

You too may fear the turmoil of being disappointed. But, do not let that stop you. Do as the Shunammite woman did, serve the Lord and trust him with your desires.

3. God Notices Everything

So often, we are tempted to give up on our dreams and desires. We set our **innermost thoughts on the shelf and conclude in defeat that no one cares**. You need to remember that **God notices, God cares and God responds**.

²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a penny^d? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father. ³⁰ And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. ³¹ So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows. Matthew 10:29-31 NIV

God notices everything about you. God notices what you do for others, your faithfulness, your actions, your reactions, your sacrifices, your commitment, your efforts, your worries, and your fears. God even notices your desires.

Conclusion

Keep your motives pure. Find your ministry and remain steadfast in service. Make your prayers sincere and straight forward and know that God notices. Like a loving parent watching over a child, God notices.

Illus: Forrest Gump to Jenny, "Sometimes there just aren't enough rocks"

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