Choose Faith
2 Kings 4:8-10, 8:1-6

A. Her Faith Moved Her to Act (2 Kings 4:8-10)

1. It came to pass – It seems as if Elisha was going to do this continuously with no end in sight. This was going to be his endless pattern.

2. Prominent, great – The Shunammite woman seem to be the one who was well off and held a position of distinction. It does not seem like this was from her husband.

3. Prominent, great – This woman was wealthy and important before meeting Elisha. The fact that she took notice of him, at a time when Judah was not listening to God, exposes her heart for God.

4. She persuaded; courageous – She became convinced that Elisha was a holy man and was persistent, on her own initiative, with no end in sight to invite him to eat at her house. This was something she was not going to stop doing.

5. So it was as often - Elisha with no plans to ever stop eating at the Shunammite’s woman house stopped in each time.

6. He turned in - Elisha made a concerted effort, with no plans to ever stop, went to the Shunammite’s woman’s house to eat.

7. Said – With no plans to ever stop talking to her husband that Elisha was a holy man. She had to know what kind of person was a holy man in order to make this distinction.

8. Behold now – With Elisha eating at her house regularly, she became focused on the kind of character she saw in Elisha.

9. Perceive, know, teach – Elisha’s up close behavior has allowed her to be able to distinguish, through her experiences of interacting with him, that he was a holy man.

10. The Holy One – In the Shunammite’s woman’s experiences of Elisha she became convinced that he was a man who was devoted to serving God.

11. Continuous – Elisha’s personal dedication to God described everything about who he is and what he was always going to be about.

12. Please, now – After examining Elisha’s character the woman, with a sense of urgency, she implored her husband to make Elisha’s stay at their home permanent. She was sold out for the things of God.

13. Let us make, has done, act – This woman on her own initiative, and with a sense of ethical obligation, was determined to make a room for Elisha.

14. Let us set, put in place – The Shunammite’s plan was to have Elisha remain permanently at her house with no end in sight. She gave him access to the room from the outside so that he can come and go as he pleases.

15. It shall be; to be – The place for Elisha was a permanent place for him.

16. Turn in, depart – Elisha can now remain at the Shunammite’s house indefinitely. He was better equipped to do ministry.
B. Choose Faith Even When It Creates Challenges (2 Kings 8:1-2)

1. **Speaking** – What Elisha had to say was not going to change.
2. **Restored to life** – Elisha was speaking to the same woman whose son he brought back from the dead.
3. **Arise, to establish** – Elisha commanded the Shunnammite woman to make a concerted effort to leave her home. The very home that he lived in and she took pride in.
4. **Go with her household** – Elisha commanded her to take everyone in her household and make it her everyday plan to find another place to live.
5. **Go with her household** - Her commitment to support Elisha’s ministry spared her from the punishment that God would bring against Judah.
6. **Sojourn** – He commands her that wherever she goes she must make it her way of life.
7. **The Lord has called for a famine** – The Lord who has all power and authority is set on ordering a famine specific for the land of Judah. It will be nowhere else so she can choose which direction she wants to go.
8. **Arose, to establish** – The Shunnammite woman made plans immediately with no end in sight to organize her household to go to another land.
9. **Did according to the word** – The Shunnammite woman put all her energy, with a sense of ethical obligation, to leave her home as Elisha had instructed her. She did not ask any questions and took any extra time, she trusted the man she knew was a holy man of God.
10. **She went with her household** – She took everyone with her including her servants and possibly their families.
11. **Sojourn** – She went to a place she knew could sustain her family with a commitment to remain as long as the man of God told her.

C. God Blesses When We Choose Faith (2 Kings 8:3-6)

1. **It came to pass; to be** – The Shunnammite woman remained in the land of the Philistines continuously. She did not even come back to check on her propriety. She was completely committed in her trust in God.
2. **Turn away** – When she came back it seems like she lost her husband who was already old before she left (4:14).
3. **She went out, to go forth** – When she returned she was focused on reestablishing herself. She was an assertive woman. She did not wait for things to happen for her she did what she knew she needed to do.
4. **Appeal** – This word means to call out in distress with a strong outcry even to the point of shouting out loud.
5. **Appeal** – The Shunnammite woman went before the king intensely pleading with him to hear her case. Notice she did not ask Elisha for help. She did not come back in need of food or lacked of resources. Because meeting the king came later
it is possible that this verse is exposing the woman’s disposition before she meets the king.

6. **The king was talking, speaking** – The king was not a righteous man.
7. **The king was talking, speaking** – God is always in control even of kings who don’t love Him. God allowed the conversation to be about the woman whose is coming to meet the king because the kings specifically ask Gehazi to relate to him the great things Elisha had done. He wanted to know about all of them. This is God’s providence at work. You see the same thing with Joseph being able to get out of prison.
8. **The king was talking, speaking** – The Shunnammite’s loss of her son was preordained to be her blessing especially since this is a time when her husband had most likely died. Her son’s death became the greatest thing Elisha did and therefore it was the foremost part of the discussion.
9. **I pray thee** – The king’s request to know about what Elisha had done was stated intensely and with urgency.
10. **The servant of the man of God** – Notice the king did not seek out the man of God. He went to the young man who served him.
11. **Great things** – The king was not interested in what were the teachings of Elisha. He was more interested in all the supernatural acts that Elisha performed in the power of God.
12. **The king was talking with the servant** – God did not only protect the woman from the famine, restored the one son she had, he also moved a king’s heart, who was not faithful to God, to be prepared for her appeal.
13. **Behold** – God’s timing is perfect.
14. **Appeal** – The woman commanded the king’s attention and intensely pleaded with the king to take specific review of her case.
15. **Appeal** – This woman’s appeal was a command. She expected to receive back what was rightfully hers.
16. **Appeal** – Faith always acts with conviction.
17. **The king asked** – The king is to the point of pleading with the woman continuously with no plans to stop asking about her circumstances.
18. **She related; tell** – She was quick to tell the king everything with no plans to stop until she had completely communicated all that was necessary.
19. **Appointed; given you** – The king whose heart God precondition generously restored what was rightfully hers.
20. **Appointed; given you** – This woman gave up her house for God’s use and gained it back.
21. **Appointed; given you** – Because of the famine someone took her place which means they kept it up for her so that she does not have to come back and restore from being left dormant for seven years.
22. **Restored all** – God did not just give her back what was hers, in terms of her house and land, God gave her “all the produce of the field from the day that she left the even until now.” (8:6). She loss nothing even though she had to live somewhere for seven years because of someone else’s disobedience.