

How To Receive The Prophet's Reward

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*Matthew 10:41 He that **receiveth** a prophet in the name of a prophet shall **receive a prophet's reward**; and he that receiveth a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward.*

2 Kings Chapter 4

1 ¶ Now there cried a certain woman of the wives of the sons of the prophets unto Elisha, saying, Thy servant my husband is dead; and thou knowest that thy servant did fear the LORD: and the creditor is come to take unto him my two sons to be bondmen.

2 And Elisha said unto her, What shall I do for thee? tell me, what hast thou in the house? And she said, Thine handmaid hath not any thing in the house, save a pot of oil.

3 Then he said, Go, borrow thee vessels abroad of all thy neighbours, even empty vessels; borrow not a few.

4 And when thou art come in, thou shalt shut the door upon thee and upon thy sons, and shalt pour out into all those vessels, and thou shalt set aside that which is full.

5 So she went from him, and shut the door upon her and upon her sons, who brought the vessels to her; and she poured out.

6 And it came to pass, when the vessels were full, that she said unto her son, Bring me yet a vessel. And he said unto her, There is not a vessel more. And the oil stayed.

7 Then she came and told the man of God. And he said, Go, sell the oil, and pay thy debt, and live thou and thy children of the rest.

8 ¶ And it fell on a day, that Elisha passed to Shunem, where was a great woman; and she constrained him to eat bread. And so it was, that as oft as he passed by, he turned in thither to eat bread.

9 And she said unto her husband, Behold now, I **PERCEIVE** that this is an holy man of God, which passeth by us continually.

10 **Let us make a little chamber, I pray thee, on the wall; and let us set for him there a bed, and a table, and a stool, and a candlestick: and it shall be, when he cometh to us, that he shall turn in thither.**

11 And it fell on a day, that he came thither, and he turned into the chamber, and lay there.

12 And he said to Gehazi his servant, Call this Shunammite. And when he had called her, she stood before him.

13 And he said unto him, Say now unto her, Behold, thou hast been careful for us with all this care; what is to be done for thee? wouldest thou be spoken for to the king, or to the captain of the host? And she answered, I dwell among mine own people.

14 And he said, What then is to be done for her? And Gehazi answered, Verily she hath no child, and her husband is old.

15 And he said, Call her. And when he had called her, she stood in the door.

16 And he said, About this season, according to the time of life, thou shalt embrace a son. And she said, Nay, my lord, thou man of God, do not lie unto thine handmaid.

17 And the woman **CONCEIVED**, and bare a son at that season that Elisha had said unto her, according to the time of life.

18 ¶ And when the child was grown, it fell on a day, that he went out to his father to the reapers.

19 And he said unto his father, My head, my head. And he said to a lad, Carry him to his mother.

20 And when he had taken him, and brought him to his mother, he sat on her knees till noon, and then died.

21 And she went up, and laid him on the bed of the man of God, and shut the door upon him, and went out.

22 And she called unto her husband, and said, Send me, I pray thee, one of the young men, and one of the asses, that I may run to the man of God, and come again.

23 And he said, Wherefore wilt thou go to him to day? it is neither new moon, nor sabbath. And she said, It shall be well.

24 Then she saddled an ass, and said to her servant, Drive, and go forward; slack not thy riding for me, except I

bid thee.

25 So she went and came unto the man of God to mount Carmel. And it came to pass, when the man of God saw her afar off, that he said to Gehazi his servant, Behold, yonder is that Shunammite:

26 Run now, I pray thee, to meet her, and say unto her, Is it well with thee? is it well with thy husband? is it well with the child? And she answered, It is well.

27 And when she came to the man of God to the hill, she caught him by the feet: but Gehazi came near to thrust her away. And the man of God said, Let her alone; for her soul is vexed within her: and the LORD hath hid it from me, and hath not told me.

28 Then she said, Did I desire a son of my lord? did I not say, Do not deceive me?

29 Then he said to Gehazi, Gird up thy loins, and take my staff in thine hand, and go thy way: if thou meet any man, salute him not; and if any salute thee, answer him not again: and lay my staff upon the face of the child.

30 And the mother of the child said, As the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee. And he arose, and followed her.

31 And Gehazi passed on before them, and laid the staff upon the face of the child; but there was neither voice, nor hearing. Wherefore he went again to meet him, and told him, saying, The child is not awaked.

32 And when Elisha was come into the house, behold, the child was dead, and laid upon his bed.

33 He went in therefore, and shut the door upon them twain, and prayed unto the LORD.

34 And he went up, and lay upon the child, and put his mouth upon his mouth, and his eyes upon his eyes, and his hands upon his hands: and he stretched himself upon the child; and the flesh of the child waxed warm.

35 Then he returned, and walked in the house to and fro; and went up, and stretched himself upon him: and the child sneezed seven times, and the child opened his eyes.

36 And he called Gehazi, and said, Call this Shunammite. So he called her. And when she was come in unto him, he said, Take up thy son.

37 Then she went in, and fell at his feet, and bowed herself to the ground, and took up her son, and went out.

Now that you have read the above chapter, let's concentrate exclusively on the story of the Shunamite woman. Notice how she and her husband entered into a partnership relationship with the man of God.

First, she **PERCEIVED** who Elisha was. She discerned the greatness of his character and the poignancy of his anointing. She recognized. She figured out. She respected. And as Mike Murdock has said, One only attracts what one respects! Elisha didn't try to PROVE who he was to her. Integrity cannot be proven; it must be discerned. Elisha didn't beg her to believe in him as a messenger from God. Rather she discerned it! The Shunamite **PERCEIVED** that Elisha was called and separated and had a divine appointment - and "anointment" - from God. So the first key to receiving the prophet's reward that Jesus spoke about in Matthew 10:41 is **PERCEIVING THE PROPHET!**

I know, I haven't even told you what the prophet's reward is yet! I have yet to define it. Be patient. Truth often impacts us more when it is progressively unveiled. So stay with me!

After the Shunamite **PERCEIVED** the prophet, she next suggested to her husband that they **RECEIVE** the prophet, by building a motel room addition to their home. The Bible calls her a noble woman which I take to mean a resourceful woman, a smart woman, a woman of some financial means and influence. After all, she was able to persuade her husband to release the resources to build the prophet's chamber; so she was a pretty sharp individual, it would seem. Her and her husband proceeded to **ROLL OUT THE RED CARPET** for the man of God by building him a vacation cottage! Hallelujah! I am sure that Elisha had some personality quirks and was imperfect as every other servant of God. And I am sure that after having stayed with this couple many times, whenever he was travelling through, that the Shunamite had noticed Elisha's human side as well. But she looked beyond Elisha's human side, and **PERCEIVED** the call of God on his life. She saw beyond the temporal and discerned the prophet's true badge of authority... the anointing that manifested when he spoke and acted on the behalf of God. So the Shunamite **PERCEIVED** Elisha, then **RECEIVED** Elisha by ministering to his material and emotional needs.

The Shunamite figured it out! She got it! "WHAT I MAKE HAPPEN FOR THE MAN OF GOD, GOD WILL MAKE HAPPEN FOR ME. I am going to hook up to divine greatness! I am going to connect with this man of God's assignment for the planet! I am going to partner with this God-chosen leader! I am going to mentor under this model from God! SHE EFFECTIVELY ENTERED INTO A BLESSING PACT WITH ELISHA BY BECOMING A BLESSING TO HIM!

And Elisha didn't prevent her from doing so. He didn't put on an air of false humility by telling her that he couldn't accept this vacation cottage and the all the meals she was offering him. No he accepted the expense paid vacation! He realized that he was God's designated point of contact for her divine prosperity. He understood God's law of sowing and reaping, seedtime and harvest! He realized that if he prevented her from entering into this partnership pact, that he would be robbing her of an appointed harvest. Elisha perceived that the Shunamite's GOOD SEED planted into GOOD SOIL would yield her a GOOD HARVEST!

So the first thing the Shunamite did was to PERCEIVE THE PROPHET. And the first thing Elisha did was to **ACCEPT THE SEED.**

The second thing the Shunamite did was to RECEIVE THE PROPHET by partnering with God to meet Elisha's needs. The second thing Elisha did was to **DISCERN HER NEED!**

Yes, Elisha realized that she was now in pact with him. He knew that it was his responsibility to DISCERN HER NEED! So he asked her what she wanted from God... the PROPHET'S REWARD! The breakthrough to what she needed the most was the PROPHET'S REWARD! She had planted a seed for her greatest need. She had planted her seeds without regret, trusting her needs to all be met! So now Elisha asks her to share her heart's greatest desire.

*12 And he said to Gehazi his servant, Call this Shunammite. And when he had called her, she stood before him.
13 And he said unto him, Say now unto her, Behold, thou hast been careful for us with all this care; what is to be done for thee? wouldest thou be spoken for to the king, or to the captain of the host? And she answered, I dwell among mine own people.*

She was reluctant to tell Elisha what she really wanted because the very thing she wanted the most in her heart of hearts seemed so impossible, and it was such an intense and intimate desire that it made her tremble and weep.

14 And he said, What then is to be done for her? And Gehazi answered, Verily she hath no child, and her husband is old.

15 And he said, Call her. And when he had called her, she stood in the door.

16 And he said, About this season, according to the time of life, thou shalt embrace a son. And she said, Nay, my lord, thou man of God, do not lie unto thine handmaid.

Elisha KNEW she had qualified herself for the Prophet's Reward! He didn't seek the Lord to get a "word" from God. He already KNEW the mind of God on the matter, in advance! He knew that God couldn't help but perform a miracle for the woman because of the way she had PERCEIVED and RECEIVED the man of God. Elisha knew the principle that Jesus spoke of later when He said, "He that receiveth you, my messenger, receiveth me, and he that receiveth me, receiveth him that sent me, even the Father." Elisha knew that a miracle, a breakthrough, a dream fulfilled, was inevitable without having to inquire of the Lord on the matter. So he simply SPOKE HER MIRACLE INTO EXISTENCE, KNOWING THAT HE HAD GOD'S AUTHORITY TO DO SO! He didn't say, "Thus saith the Lord!" He didn't have to. This was not a "sovereign spontaneous word" from God that could only be announced if God said it first to Elisha, on the spot, like when God caused Elisha prophesy to people. Rather this was a "word set in motion" by the Shunamite's partnership with Elisha, God's representative. Her own obedience to God to be His hand of supply to His messenger set the miracle in motion. GOD CANNOT FAIL TO REWARD FAITH AND STEWARDSHIP; it is literally impossible!

17 And the woman CONCEIVED, and bare a son at that season that Elisha had said unto her, according to the time of life.

So the Shunamite PERCEIVED THE PROPHET, RECEIVED THE PROPHET, and as a result, CONCEIVED THE PROPHET'S REWARD!

And Elisha ACCEPTED THE SEED, DISCERNED THE NEED, then PERFORMED THE DEED!

Her responsibility was to PERCEIVE, RECEIVE, and then CONCEIVE. The man of God's responsibility was to ACCEPT THE SEED, DISCERN THE NEED, and to PERFORM THE DEED!

But that's not the end of the story! This woman continued in pact with the prophet! Years later, the poignancy of the partnership was still evident. That child that she first conceived in her old age through the word of Elisha eventually died one day, as you read above. But the power of the partnership was still in force. The Shunamite knew she had the right to call on the prayer power and anointing of the prophet. And sure enough, God used Elisha to raise the boy from the dead! The pastoral pact, the prophetic partnership, was still in force after many years from the day the relationship began.

But that is still not the end of the story! There is yet - even more - to come! Let's read some more about this Shunamite!

2 Kings 8:1 Then spake Elisha unto the woman, whose son he had restored to life, saying, Arise, and go thou and thine household, and sojourn wheresoever thou canst sojourn: for the LORD hath called for a famine; and it shall also come upon the land seven years.

2 And the woman arose, and did after the saying of the man of God: and she went with her household, and sojourned in the land of the Philistines seven years.

3 And it came to pass at the seven years' end, that the woman returned out of the land of the Philistines: and she went forth to cry unto the king for her house and for her land.

4 And the king talked with Gehazi the servant of the man of God, saying, Tell me, I pray thee, all the great things that Elisha hath done.

5 And it came to pass, as he was telling the king how he had restored a dead body to life, that, behold, the woman, whose son he had restored to life, cried to the king for her house and for her land. And Gehazi said, My lord, O king, this is the woman, and this is her son, whom Elisha restored to life.

6 And when the king asked the woman, she told him. So the king appointed unto her a certain officer, saying, Restore all that was hers, and all the fruits of the field since the day that she left the land, even until now.

Wow! Talk about knowing how to milk a man of God for all he's worth! Decades later the pact is still in force. The partnership still stands! The relationship is still bearing fruit. The woman is STILL... Conceiving The Prophet's Reward. It goes on and on and on for her, an eternal reaping of rewards. It's as if God just "keeps on keepin' on" celebrating her PERCEIVING and RECEIVING the prophet. It's as if God is trying to make a point here!

And talk about timing! She and her son walk into the king's court at the exact time Gehazi is telling the king about Elisha raising her son from the dead. I'd call that perfect timing. (And don't forget that Elisha had asked her decades before if she wanted him to speak to the king on her behalf.) Wow! She gets royal attention after all! The king is so awestruck by the uncanny timing and coincidence of this event, that he restores her land and SEVEN YEARS worth of produce to her... ON THE SPOT! Talk about an ON THE SPOT CASH AWARD! So she is STILL conceiving The Prophet's Reward! Again and again and again! Who knows what further rewards she has been reaping in heaven for the last few milleniums; CONCEIVING rewards on and on and on! Continuous reward for merely PERCEIVING and RECEIVING a man of God.

I hope you are getting the point of this account from God's Word. WHAT YOU MAKE HAPPEN FOR GOD'S MAN, GOD WILL MAKE HAPPEN FOR YOU!

Now a portion of scripture written by Paul to the Philippian church finally makes sense to us. Lets read it in the Amplified Version, because it is clearer:

Philippians 4:10, 14-19 AMP

*I was made very happy in the Lord that now you have revived your interest in my welfare after so long a time; you were indeed thinking of me, but you had no opportunity to show it... But it was right and commendable and noble of you to contribute for my needs and to share my difficulties with me. And you Philippians yourselves well know that in the early days of the Gospel ministry, when I left Macedonia, no church (assembly) **entered into partnership with me and opened up a debit and credit account in giving and receiving** except you only. For even in Thessalonica you sent me contributions for my needs, not only once but a second time. Not that I seek or am eager for your gift, but I do seek and am eager for the fruit which increases to your credit [the harvest of blessing that is accumulating to your account]. But I have your full payment and more; I have everything I need and am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent me. They are the fragrant odor of an offering and sacrifice which God welcomes and in which He delights. **And my God will liberally supply (fill to the full) your every need according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.***

Partnership with an apostle, a prophet, an evangelist, or pastor, according to Paul, is tantamount to opening a debit and credit account with God. And His interest rate is 10,000%. 10,000 Percent? Come on, Pastor Dan, you're pullin' my leg! No, I'm not. According to Jesus' own words in Mark 10:29,30, the return on anything we invest into the spreading of the Gospel is One Hundred Fold... that's 10,000 percent! Now in this time, Jesus said! Not just in the hereafter.

First, the Shunamite received a miracle birth, then she received a miracle raising from the dead, and finally she received financial independence and supernatural provision. So we see by combining her example and this passage from Paul, that the PROPHET'S REWARD IS AN ENDLESS HARVEST OF MIRACLES IN EVERY REALM OF LIFE... JUST FROM PARTNERING WITH A MAN OR WOMAN OF GOD!

Faithful Financial Partnership with an Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, or Pastor/Teacher is tantamount to entering a Mentorship-Protoge Relationship. The partner actually absorbs the Prophet's anointing by transfer and association. The Shunamite is a good example. She learned from Elisha. She also absorbed a measure of his anointing and became a prophetic woman. Even her timing was perfectly prophetic by accidentally arriving in the king's court the precise appointed moment (on purpose by God, of course).

How does one enter into such a partnership? Absorb every Book that man of God publishes, feed on as many of his or her Tape Series you can, go to as many events of where he or she is speaking that you can get to. Become a protoge of your spiritual mentor. Perceive his or her worth in the kingdom of God. Receive them by continuous financial gifts into their ministry. Pray for them regularly. Tell God you are placing yourself on prayer alert for this anointed leader at any time they need prayer.

I have never been so prosperous since the year that I entered into a pact with Dr. Tommy Ray O'Dell, a mass miracle evangelist, the grandson of Dr. T. L. Osborn. Tommy Ray is on the front lines of soulwinning with enormous 100,000 crowd crusades on foreign soil. Our church tithes a tenth of our own income into this work of soulwinning. I myself have been partnered with Tommy Ray for years. The mottos of my church has been, "We'll grow God's Kingdom, He'll grow our church." "We'll add souls to God, God will add saints to us."

So let's review a bit. What is a Partner's Responsibility? PERCEIVE THE PROPHET, RECIEVE THE PROPHET (by faithfully meeting the man or woman of God's needs), and CONCEIVE THE PROPHET'S

REWARD!

And what is the Man Of God's Responsibility? **ACCEPT THE SEED, DISCERN THE NEED, and PERFORM THE DEED** for the partner!

Another example of this dynamic pact that can exist between a man of God and a protoge is my partnership with Dr. Mike Murdock, perhaps the wisest person of modern day, in my opinion. I have read all his boooks for years now, faithfully sowing my sacrificial financial seeds into his ministry. I love him dearly. He is a spiritual father to me. I remember attending one of his conferences and sowing a Thousand Dollar seed into his ministry at that event. The very next day I was blessed with a \$5,000 personal gift from out of nowhere for no seeming reason. And that was just one withdrawal from the debit and credit account I opened up with Mike Murdock. I have also partnered with my pastors over the years, and seen incredible tangible benefits both spiritually, financially and even physically! In some cases, I have insisted that my all, or a major portion, of my tithes and offerings go directly to my pastor, over and above whatever he receives from the general fund of the church for salary. The important thing is to get hooked up with at least one man or woman of God that the Spirit makes special to your heart. **THAT IS YOUR DIVINE CONNECTION! THIS IS HOW TO RECEIVE THE PROPHET'S REWARD OVER AND OVER AND OVER THROUGHOUT AN ENTIRE LIFETIME... AN ENDLESS SUPPLY OF MIRACLE AFTER MIRACLE, HARVEST AFTER HARVEST, SUPERNATURAL HEALTH, AND FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE**