

Small Group Study Notes
2 Kings 4:38-44

1. Most of Elisha's work is done among the small communities of those who are still committed to God. He does small acts of kindness for the believers; oil for a nameless widow, a meal saved from ruin, an axe rescued from the river. Should most of our acts of kindness be done to fellow believers or outsiders? And who were the "bothers" that Jesus referred to in Mat 25:40?
2. Someone put the wrong stuff in the stew (v39), someone doubted that the food would suffice (v43), in the last story Elisha did not have a clue what was going on (v27), the bible does not picture God's people as being perfect. They are pictured as being rather human. To what extent is seeking perfection good and to what extent is it bad?
3. That there was a drought, that there were poisonous vegetables are all out workings of the curse (Gen 3:17&18). One day the curse will be lifted (Isa 11:6-9 & 65:17-25). In the face of natural disasters how do we present the double truth that God has cursed his creation and God loves his creation?
4. This man (v42) brings his firstfruits offering and gives it to Elisha. The firstfruits offering were to be given to the priests (Ex 23:19 & Dt 18:3-4). So this man ignores the "literal" word of God and acts on the "principal" behind the word. Did he do right or wrong? And how far can we go in ignoring the literal word and acting upon a principal?
5. Elisha had no doubt that God would feed his people (v43). Jesus had no doubt that God would feed his people (Mat 6:25-26). Paul had no doubt that God would provide for his people (Phil 4:19). Yet financial anxiety is to be found among God's people just as it is among those who do not believe. Why?