

Date: 6 October 2019

Speaker: Rev Clement Chew

Topic: Prophets of Fire and Water: When Tragedy Strikes

Scripture text: 2 Kings 4:18-37

1. The Shunammite woman's son experienced head discomfort and died from the pain. It pained his mother but she knew it was the work of God. Her faith was put to the test when her son was taken away so quickly. Do we respond in faith when tragedy strikes?

2. When tragedy strikes, we must seek the LORD first by turning to Him. The Shunammite woman laid her dead son on Elisha's bed. Elisha was a prophet of the LORD and a godly man. The woman sought the LORD by seeking the man of God, who will bring God's message to her. She went to Mount Carmel with great urgency to seek God's answer regarding her son's death.

3. When tragedy strikes, we should complain to the LORD instead of complaining against Him. A child was given to her in her old age out of God's favour upon her, not out of her own request. Thus, she complained to the LORD regarding her son's death even though she was faithfully serving Him. To complain to the LORD is to pour out our soul to God, seeking His will and deliverance. Tragedies are opportunities for us to complain to the LORD.

4. When tragedy strikes, we must persevere in the LORD. Elisha persevered in prayer to the LORD and stretched himself twice upon the child to revive him. The woman had persevering faith in the LORD to save her child. The LORD was pleased with their unwavering trust in Him and the son was eventually brought back to life. Let us have steadfast faith in the LORD and He will surely answer our prayers in His good will and time. Do you rest in the LORD's deliverance when tragedy strikes?