

Shut the Door

By Hsiao Ching

Her husband died and left her with two sons and no money. She would have to resort to selling her children and prostitution to survive. But instead, she went to God and God said, 'Shut the door'.

Another woman, living around the same time, but in a different town, cradled her small son as he died on her lap. She went straight to God, didn't even tell her husband or had time to cry. And God said, 'Shut the door'.

In both cases God didn't exactly say 'Shut the door' but He did perform miracles in response to the requests of these two women. Both stories can be found in 2 Kings 4. The first story is about a widow who was miraculously given oil to sell, and care for her family. The second was the Shunammite's son who died and was restored to life.

Wonderful things happen when we approach God alone.

God is a personal God. He loves for us to talk to Him in secret, just as we would to our best friend with the bedroom door closed. He wants our full attention without expecting a show or others exploiting His presence.

We live in a society that loves

attention. Everyone wants to be known, famous. Nothing is private anymore. We have reality television programs that broadcast private lives of families, lovers, even criminals in action.

God knows that humans love attention from each other, but with God it is different. With man it is always about 'image', looking good and impressing people. God will not participate in cheap hocus pocus magic and entertainment.

Instead, God wants to act on your prayers, in a sharing and private time with you. He wants to be intimate with His children, as a loving father is to his child.

Jesus often 'shut the door' when he went to solitary places to pray. Jesus said when we pray, '....go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father Who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.' (Matthew 6:6)

Next time you pray, try telling God a secret. Ask, request something that only He and you would know about. Talk to God in secret and then watch how He rewards you!

Just remember to shut the door!

