

Chapter 4

Elifeus fo multiplieth a poore widowes oyle, that she payeth her debtes and liueth of the reft. 8. By his prayers a Sunamite woman hath a fonne. 18. Which dying he rayfeth to life. 38. He taketh away the bitternes of coliquintida, which by chance was put in the potte, 42. and feedeth manie with few loaues.

And a certayne woman of the wiues of the prophetes cried to Elifeus, faying: Thy feruant my hufband is dead, and thou knoweft that thy feruant was one that feared God, & behold the creditour is come to take away my two fonnes to ferue him. ² To whom Elifeus fayd: What wilt thou that I doe for thee? Tel me, what haft thou in thy houfe? But she answered: I thy handmaid haue nothing in my houfe, but a litle oyle, to anoynt me withal. ³ To whom he fayd: Goe, borrow of al thy neighbours emptie veffels not a few. ⁴ And goe in, and shut thy doore, when thou art within, thou and thy fonnes: and powre therof into al thefe veffels: and when they shal be ful, thou fhalt take them away. ⁵ The woman therefore went, and shut the doore vpon her, and vpon her fonnes: they brought her veffels, and she powred in. ⁶ And when the veffels were ful, she fayd to her fonne: Bring me yet a veffel. And he answered: I haue none. And the oyle ftood. ⁷ And she came, and told the man of God. And he fayde: Goe, fel the oyle, and pay thy creditour: and thou and thy fonnes liue of the reft. ⁸ And there came a certayne day, and Elifeus paffed by Sunam: and there was there a great woman, which held him to eate bread: and when he paffed often that way, he turned in to her to eate bread. ⁹ Who fayd to her hufband: I perceiue that this is a holie man of God, which paffeth by vs often. ¹⁰ Let vs therefore make him a litle chamber, and fette him a litle bed in it, and a table, and a ftoole, and a candlefticke, that when he cometh to vs he may tarie there. ¹¹ There came therefore a certayne day, and coming he turned in to the chamber, and refted there. ¹² And he fayd to Giezi his

feruant: Call this Sunamite. Who when he had called her, and she ftoode before him, ¹³ he fayd to his feruant: Speake to her: Behold thou haft diligently miniftred to vs in al thinges, what wilt thou that I doe for thee? haft thou any bufines, and wilt thou that I fpeake to the king, or the general of the warrefare? Who answered: I dwel in the middes of myne owne people. ¹⁴ And he fayd: What wil she then that I doe for her? And Giezi fayd: Aske not: for she hath no fonne, and her hufband is old. ¹⁵ He therefore cōmanded him to cal her: who when she was called, and ftoode before the doore, ¹⁶ he fayd to her: At this tyme, this felf fame houre, if life accompanie, thou shalt haue a fonne in thy wombe. But she answered: Doe not I befech thee my lord, man of God, doe not lie to thy handmayd. ¹⁷ And the woman conceiued, and brought forth a fonne in that time, and in the felf fame houre, that Elifeus had fayd. ¹⁸ And the childe grewe. And vpon a certaine day, when going forth he went to his father, vnto the reapers, ¹⁹ he fayd to his father: My head aketh, my head aketh. But he faid to his feruant: Take him, and bring him to his mother, ²⁰ who when he had taken him, and brought him to his mother, she fette him vpon her knees vntil noone, and he dyed. ²¹ And she went vp, and laid him vpon the bed of the man of God, and shut the doore: and going forth ²² called her husband, and fayd: Send with me, I befech thee, one of the feruantes, and an affe, that I may runne to the man of God, and returne. ²³ Who fayd to her: For what caufe doeft thou goe to him? The Calendes be not to day, nor the Sabbath. Who answered: I wil goe. ²⁴ And she fadled the affe, and commanded her feruant: driue, and make haft, make no ftay in going. And doe that which I command thee. ²⁵ She therefore went forward, and came to the man of God into mount Carmel: and when the man of God faw her ouer againft him, he faid to Giezi his feruant: Behold that Sunamite. ²⁶ Goe therefore to meete her, and fay to her: Is al wel about thee, and about thy husband, and about thy fonne? Who answered: Wel. ²⁷ And when she was come to the man of God into the mount, she caught

his feet: and Giezi came to remoue her. And the man of God faid: Let her alone, for her foule is in anguish, and our Lord hath hid it from me, and hath not told me. ²⁸ Who faid to him: Did I aske a fonne of my Lord? Did I not fay to thee: Mocke me not? ²⁹ And he faid to Giezi: Girde thy loynes, and take my staffe in thy hand, & goe. If a man meete thee, falute him not: and if any man falute thee, anfwer him not: and thou fhalt put my staffe vpon the face of the childe. ³⁰ Moreouer the mother of the childe faid: Our Lord liueth, and thy foul liueth, I wil not leaue thee. He arofe therfore, and folowed her. ³¹ But Giezi was gone before them, and had put the staffe vpon the face of the childe, & there was not voice, nor fenfe: and he returned to meete him, and told him, faying: ^a)The childe is not rifen. ³² Elifeus therfore went into the houfe, and behold the childe lay dead on his bed: ³³ and going in he shut the doore vpon him, & vpon the childe & prayed to our Lord. ³⁴ And he went vp, and lay vpon the childe: and he put his mouth vpon his mouth, & his eies vpon his eies & his handes vpon his handes: and he bowed him self ouer him, and the childes flefh was warmed. ³⁵ But he returning, walked vp and downe in the houfe, once hither & thither: & he went vp, and lay vpon him: and the childe gaped feuen tymes, and opened his eies. ³⁶ And he called Giezi, & faid to him: Call this Sunamite. Who being called, went in vnto him: Who faid: Take thy fonne. ³⁷ She came, and fel at his feete, and adored vpon the ground: and tooke her fonne, and went out, ³⁸ and Elifeus returned into Galgal. And there was a famine in the land, and the children of the prophetes dwelt before him; and he fayd to one of his feruantes: Sette on a great potte, and feeth broth for the children of the prophetes. ³⁹ And one went

^a God fent his law by his feruant, and it auailed not to mankinde dead in finnes. But he coming & accomodating himself to our infirmitie, participating our death we are quickned. So S. Auguftin myftically applieth this figuratiue miracle to Chrift and his Church. *li. 12. c. 35. cont. Faft. Manich.* and manie like thinges of the old Teftament he fheweth to be figures of the new.

out into the field to gather wilde herbes: and he found as it were a wilde vine, and gathered of it the colocynthides of the field, and filled his mantel, and returning cut it into the potte of broth, for he knew not what it was. ⁴⁰ They therefore powred it to their felowes, to eate: and when they had tafted of the broth, they cried, faying: Death is in the potte, man of God. And they could not eate. ⁴¹ But he fayd: Bring meale, and when they had brought it, he caft it into the potte, and faid: Powere in for the multitude, that they may eate. And there was no more anie bitterneffe in the potte. ⁴² And a certaine man came from Baalfalifa bringing to the man of God loaues of the firft fruites, twentie barley loaues, and new wheate in his fcrippe. But he faid: Geue to the people, that they may eate. ⁴³ And his feruant answered him: How much is this, that I fhould fette it before an hundred men? Agayne he faid: Geue to the people, that they may eate: for thus faith our Lord: They fhall eate, and there fhall be leaft. ⁴⁴ He therefore fette it before them: who did eate, and there was leaft according to the word of our Lord.