

What You Need to Know About ELISHA:

**“Heir of the Spirit:
‘What wish shall I grant you
before I am taken away’ (2 Kings 2:9)”**

Study Number Five – 2 Kings 6:1-23

First in the life of Elisha we have walked with him through numerous experiences. We saw him take over for Elijah, who is a very spectacular extrovert type person. Elisha was more of a quiet type—more of a servant type. And yet he’s had a very phenomenal ministry already.

We saw him involved in several miracles in the first study. And then in our second study he was confronted by three kings—the kings of Edom, Judah and Israel.

And then in the next study we had the privilege of seeing him interrelate with people in a given situation—quite a number of them. With the woman whose husband had died, then the woman who was without a child and the death of that child, and the provision of food.

In our last study we saw him being visited by Naaman, a general from the Syrian army. And we watched how God provided for his needs.

Where do we make the issue and draw the line?

It is our responsibility to share Jesus Christ. When a person comes to faith in Christ, there will be a moment of great rejoicing. Where a person has been born again by the Spirit and placed in God's family, that's beautiful.

Then that person is free in the Spirit of God to be taught by the Spirit with regard to personal matters in their life. Our problem is we become so performance-oriented that we do that for God as though we're helping God straighten out this new convert by telling them what they can't do and what they can do.

That really produced a shallow, legalistic, hypocritical, pharisaical type Christian rather than someone who has been totally loved and accepted by God and who is growing in grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Spirit is fully capable of convicting and showing us the things that are wrong in our lives. And because of our love for Him we renounce and forsake those things but they are not the ultimate issue and must not cloud the issue for the young believer who comes to know Christ as Savior.

Now this brings us to another very interesting chapter. We see God blessing the ministry of Elisha in this particular study. There are some great lessons that come out of it. Let's get after it.

During the ten years that Elijah and Elisha were together, Elisha served him ten years before Elijah was caught home. And during those ten years these two guys founded three seminaries. They founded a seminary in Gilgal, they founded one in Jericho, and then they founded another one in Bethel. So there are three schools of the prophets.

The head school—headquarters—was at Gilgal. And the scene of our story opens here in the city of Gilgal it's believed.

**v. 1 Now the sons of the prophets said to Elisha,
“Behold now, the place before you where we are
living is too limited for us.**

“Now the sons of the prophets said to Elisha, ‘Behold now, the place before you where we are living is too limited for us.’”

“Sir, we’ve got a problem. You’re so popular we can’t find a place big enough to take care of all the students who want to come and sit at your feet and learn about God from you. We really need to do something.”

Enrollment in the seminary had grown to the point where it didn’t have enough dorms and they didn’t have enough classrooms and the cafeteria was overcrowded and the students were really, really eager to help in an expansion program.

Simply stated, God is not in the business of using METHODS. He uses MEN.

It doesn't matter what kind of building, what kind of program, what kind of people who are involved. It's people in whom God lives that God's going to work. And the emphasis is on the leadership, not on the program. Not on the place, but on the people that are involved.

That these people are dedicated, Christ-honoring servants and God's going to bear fruit in lives. Elisha is a top-notch, committed servant so God is blessing this guy. And in the organization it's expanding and exploding. There's not enough space for everybody.

In our day we've got to do everything for the students. But here the students want to do something for themselves.

v. 2 Please let us go to the Jordan, and each of us take from there a beam, and let us make a place there for ourselves where we may live." So he said, "Go."

"Please let us go to Jordan, and each of us take from there a beam, and let us make a place there for ourselves where we may live.' So he said, 'Go.'"

He said, "Guys I'm really excited about this. I think it's fantastic that you want to get involved in the expansion program here at the seminary. You want to go down there and cut down some trees and begin to build some buildings then get after it! Go! You want some dorms and some classrooms and expand the program."

There's one verse in Isaiah that's just so beautiful that fits well here:

Isaiah 54:2

Enlarge the place of your tent. Stretch out the curtains of your dwellings. Spare not, lengthen your cords and strengthen your pegs.

“Go on! Expand!” It's an invitation of God's blessing.

Elisha's been faithful. He's been serving the Lord, relating himself to these guys, and now they've got a problem. They have to get an expansion going. And out of love and respect, look at verse 3. Talk about a professor that's popular. It's one thing to meet the professor in the classroom, but to ask him to go and help is something else. That's the supreme compliment, isn't it?

v. 3 Then one said, “Please be willing to go with your servants.” And he answered, “I shall go.”

“Then one of them said, ‘Please be willing to go with your servants.’”

“Hey man, how'd you like to go along?”

“And he answered, ‘I shall go.’”

He could have said, “Well I’ve got so many classes to teach. I’ve got some exams to give and I’ve got reports to grade. Sorry, I can’t go with you guys!”

That’s why he’s popular. He’s available.

“Sure! Let’s go. Maybe we can get a little racquetball and golf in on the side. Let’s go down there and really have a good time down at the Jordan getting this thing all set up.”

v. 4 So he went with them; and when they came to the Jordan, they cut down trees.

“So he went with them; and when they came to the Jordan, they cut down trees.”

Seminary students cutting down trees is something else. They probably found muscles that they never knew that they had.

These guys didn’t have chainsaws. They had to use axes. They’re exhausted at the end of the day.

When we get excited about doing something for the Lord then the evil one always moves in and hinders or causes an accident to take place.

Look at the next verse—verse 5.

v. 5 But as one was felling a beam, the axe head fell into the water; and he cried out and said, “Alas, my

master! For it was borrowed.”

“But as one was felling a beam, the axe head fell into the water; and he cried out and said, ‘Alas, my master! For it was borrowed.’”

Paul says to the Thessalonians:

1 Thessalonians 2:18

I wanted to come to you, I Paul, more than once, and yet Satan thwarted us.

Many times it’s through this that brings discouragement, through accident, that in the midst of the progress which is going to expand our ministry and our effectiveness were thwarted by some accident.

Here’s the prophet. He’s busily engaged in felling a tree. And as he does so, the axe head flies off of the end of the handle and into the Jordan River. And he’s really upset.

Now a couple of things here. First, the Law provided for the fact that an axe head flew off and hit somebody, they could be relieved from the consequences, even if the guy was killed by the flying axe head.

That was such a serious problem Deuteronomy 19:5 specifies the provision for the flying of an axe head in the forest and hitting somebody.

At least this guy was smart enough to be cutting the wood toward the river so that if the head came off, it went in the river. So he wouldn't hit one of his other students. At least he's thinking.

And then secondly, a lot of people have criticized him because it's borrowed. Well now listen, axes cost a lot of money in those days. Probably most students have discovered that with the cost of tuition and everything else, there are just a few things that they can do without. And on their priority list, way down at the bottom would probably be an axe and a chainsaw.

That isn't really a high priority right now. Let's get the education first then we'll invest in those kinds of things so that we can burn wood in our fireplace later on.

So what's this guy do? He can't afford an axe. But he's excited about helping and some guy in the town of Gilgal has an axe. So he goes and says, "Hey man, how'd you like to let your axe be used by the Lord for His service for a little while?" The guy says, "Sure! It's hanging out there on the wall in the garage. Go get it." So he does.

Now we need to think about the guy that loaned him this lousy axe. Are we the kind of people who really sacrifice, giving all second-rate stuff to the Lord? This guy who loaned him the axe head should have never done it in the first place without being sure that it was good and it would do the job.

And he's upset! It's borrowed. It costs a lot of money. And that axe head is in the river.

v. 6 Then the man of God said, "Where did it fall?" And when he showed him the place, he cut off a stick, and threw it in there, and made the iron float.

"Then the man of God said, 'Where did it fall?' And when he showed him the place, he cut off a stick, and threw it in there, and made the iron to float."

Elisha's sensitive to the needs of his students. He realizes this is a critical time for him.

John Newton said it so beautifully in his poetry:

Not one concern of ours is small
if we belong to Him.
To teach us this, the Lord of all
once made the iron to swim.
(source unknown)

Some people say, "You know, God really is concerned about the grade I get on that test. God is really concerned about the little things in my life."

J. Campbell Morgan said, "Well, can you mention one thing in your life that's big to God?"

The very hairs of our head are on there. When we come right

down to it, we're important to Him. And everything we think and do and what happens to us is of great concern.

He says, "casting all your cares upon Him for He cares for you." (1 Peter 5: 7)

The man of God asks, "Where did it fall?"

That's a picture of a lot of us. Some place in our lives we've fallen out of fellowship with the Lord as Christians. The only way we're going to get back into a vital, dynamic, living relationship with Christ is go back to the place where it fell and deal with that problem.

Progress will not be made until we deal with the place where it fell.

Now this axe head is a picture of the world. The axe handle is a picture of humanity.

Two sin in the Garden of Eden, the axe head flew off. And God so loved the world that He cast into the human arena the stick of the Cross of Calvary upon which His Son died, to make it possible for the axe head to be restored to the axe handle. And all that has to be done is to in faith take it. It's ours—verse 7.

v. 7 And he said, "Take it up for yourself." So he put out his hand and took it.

"And he said, 'Take it up for yourself.' So he put out his hand

and he took it.”

Salvation is a gift for the taking. It’s ours.

Right now we can receive Jesus Christ as Savior, ask Him to come into our life. He waits to do just that.

Well life oftentimes, in accounts like this, we have to move away from the expansion program to battle now. We have to go from WORK to WAR.

As we pick up in the eighth verse, we’re going to see something that’s happening on the international front. We’ve gotten a little glimpse of Elisha’s relationship to his students, God’s prosperity and blessing upon His ministry. But look at verse 8.

v. 8 Now the king of Syria was warring against Israel; and he counseled with his servants saying, “In such and such a place shall be my camp.”

“Now the king of Syria was warring against Israel; and he counseled with his servants saying, ‘In such and such a place shall be my camp.’”

v. 9 And the man of God sent word to the king of Israel saying, “Beware that you do not pass this place, for the Syrians are coming down there.”

“And the man of God sent word to the king of Israel saying,

‘Beware that you do not pass this place, for the Syrians are coming down there.’”

Now what bothers us about that?

The king sends his general down there and Elisha gets him all together again, he sends him back home and he’s a believer. And now the king’s forgotten all that and they’re doing war against them! Talk about the shortness of human memory.

Here they are coming back to fight again. Talk about long-term gratitude. Now listen, if we’re waiting to receive gratitude because of something we’ve done for someone, forget it. We should fix our focus on doing something for somebody else for the glory of God and not for what we’re going to get out of it.

Allow God to be the one who brings the personal blessing in life. And He will eventually vindicate and reward. Doing something for somebody else in the hopes that they’ll do something for us in return, we will be the most frustrated human being on the face of the earth. Because people just don’t act that way. It’s refreshing when they do unselfishly respond, but don’t expect it.

Now what happens is the king of Syria is figuring out how he’s going to get down into Israel. And so he told his servants up there, the ministers of war, “In such and such a place shall be my camp.”

Now Elisha has the ability, because of a God-given ability, to know that information. So he passes the hot wire through a telegram over to Jehoram. Now we've already met Jehoram—Mr. Mental B.O. He's super negative. Every time we meet him he's got something crummy to say.

“God brought us out here to give us into the hands of the Moabites.”

“God did this last week. God let him put a chip on my shoulder! Now we're going to start a war because who am I? Am I a god that I can cure a guy of his leprosy?”

Many of us hate to be around a guy like that. Just depresses us to listen to him, you know? Stinkin' thinkin'—it's just bad news all the time. They're always down on everything. Negative, negative, negative. Nothing, every—never positive. They just pollute the whole atmosphere.

Zig Ziglar told a story one time about getting on a plane early in the morning at 6:30 and the sweet little stewardess came down the aisle and she said, “Good morning! It's a great morning!” And Ziglar said, “Serious, thank you for reminding me” as she poured the coffee.

And the next guy sitting across the aisle is chewing on a stogie and he's getting ready to eat his scrambled eggs. She turns to him and says, “Good morning sir! It's a fine morning!” And he says, “What's good about it?”

And she's taken back for a second and then she says, "Have you ever tried to miss a few?" And you know the whole impact of the thing was just right there. What are the alternatives? "It's a great day because I'm alive!" Because the alternative is being dead.

So many times we act like that. We're negative.

And here's old Jehoram.

"the man of God sent word to the king of Israel"—to Jehoram—"saying, 'Beware that you do not pass this place, for the Syrians are coming down there.'"

Jehoram can't take it at face value. Look at verse 10.

v.10 And the king of Israel sent to the place about which the man of God had told him; thus he warned him, so that he guarded himself there, more than once or twice.

"And the king of Israel sent to the place about which"—send some guys down there to just check it out.

Have to be sure that he's right!

"which the man of God had told him; thus he warned him, so that he guarded himself there, more than once or twice."

When the Lord speaks through His Word, everybody ought to

listen! Pay attention! He's going to say something important. Believe it, act on it, it works.

But Jehoram doesn't. He goes down there and checks it. But then after he sees it, "Yay, they're really coming this way." He goes back and tells the troops, "Okay, avoid this."

v. 11 Now the heart of the king of Syria was enraged over this thing; and he called his servants and said to them, "Will you tell me which of us is for the king of Israel?"

"Now the heart of the king of Syria" is upset.

"[he] was enraged over this thing; and he called his servants and said to them, 'Will you tell me which of us is for the king of Israel?'"

"Where's the Benedict Arnold in this bunch? Hey guys, come on! We have the CIA and the Secret Service working in this situation but I can't find out where the leak is!"

v. 12 And one of his servants said, "No, my lord, O king; but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the words that you speak in your bedroom."

"And one of his servants said, 'No, my lord, O king; but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the words that you speak in your bedroom.'"

v. 13 So he said, “Go and see where he is, that I may send and take him.” And it was told him, saying, “Behold, he is in Dothan.”

“So he said, ‘Go and see where he is, that I may send and take him.’ And it was told him, saying, ‘Behold, he is in Dothan.’”

That king issues an all-points bulletin, going to catch him. Find out he’s in the city of Dothan. Hang onto that.

Something else happened in Dothan. Try to remember what else happened there.

v. 14 And he sent horses and chariots and a great army there, and they came by night and surrounded the city.

“And he sent horses and chariots and a great army there, and they came by night and surrounded the city.”

v. 15 Now when the attendant of the man of God had risen early and gone out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was circling the city. And his servant said to him, “Alas, my master! What shall we do?”

“Now when the attendant of the man of God had risen early and gone out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was circling the city. And his servant said to him, ‘Alas, my

master! What shall we do?”

Alright, who’s this attendant? This is the brand new guy.

Gehazi bit the dust through his greed. Remember? He’s now a leper.

If we ever get the chance to be used by God we better count it a high and holy privilege because we’re not indispensable.

There’s a new servant now, the new attendant to Elisha. Gehazi doesn’t have that privilege anymore. Sure, he could have been restored. He could have repented, dealt with the problem and God would have restored him. But there’s a new servant now having the privilege of watching God work.

And this new guy goes bananas. He goes out and all he can see is chariots all around the city of Dothan early in the morning. He’s getting some water and he comes back in and he says, “Alas, my master! What shall we do?”

There’s a little story from the life of Elijah to help us realize the tragic mistake that Elijah made. He passed it on to Elisha because Elisha passed the test right now.

When Elijah confronted Ahab and Jezebel with the wickedness, which was going on through Baal worship, he also told them there was going to be three and a half years without rain. They went through a tragic period of famine, economic stress and crisis.

At the end of the three and a half years he went to Ahab and he said, “Look, I want to have a Carmel Convention. We’re going to meet on Mount Carmel; we’re going to get this thing settled. I want you to bring all your prophets and get up there. We’re going to have a Super Bowl once and for all. We’re going to find out who’s God.”

And he gets them all up there and on the top of that mountain. From nine o’clock until three in the afternoon, the prophets of Baal try to call fire out of heaven without success. Three o’clock in the afternoon our cool prophet, all by himself down on the other thirty-yard line at the other end of the field just fixes his little altar. He puts his sacrifice on it and says, “Lord, could use some fire down here.” Boom! The fire comes and the people are convinced that Jehovah is God.

Now the land has also been without water for a long time. And so Elijah goes up to the top of the mountain and he prays and says, “God, You’ve sent the fire, now let’s have the rain.”

And the rain comes after he had prayed seven times. He comes back to Ahab and he says, “You better get in your chariot and head to Jezreel because the rain’s coming.” And before they could get off of Mount Carmel and back to Jezreel Elijah’s running in front of the chariot singing, “I’ve seen fire and I’ve seen rain.” And boy it was pouring.

When they got back to Jezreel Jezebel is so mad because her prophets have been slain. She sends a telegram to Elijah and

says, “If I don’t make your life like the life of one of my prophets,” which means “I’m going to get you by tomorrow, may the gods do the same to me.” Signed, Jezebel.”

What does he do? Instead of checking in with the Lord and having confidence in God’s ability to protect, Elijah packs his bags and he heads for Beersheba and out into the wilderness the next day and he casts himself under a juniper tree and says, “Lord, I only am left. Go ahead and take my life. I’m no good.”

When we’re most eager to act is when we’ll make the most pitiful mistake. When we react to our circumstances rather than respond to them, we’ll always run out of the will of God.

And invariably we’re like that. Victims of circumstances! Boy, we do something! And at this critical point Elisha could say, “Oh! What do we do? We’re surrounded!” Instead he does what’s so cool. He trusts the Lord.

2 Chronicles 20:12

O our God! Will You not judge them, for we’re powerless before this great multitude who are coming against us, nor do we know what to do; but our eyes are on You.”

2 Chronicles 32:7, 8

Be strong and courageous; do not fear or be dismayed because of the king of Assyria, nor because of all the multitude which

is with him. For one with us is greater than the one who is with him. With him is only an arm of the flesh ...

During those ten years that Elijah and Elisha were together, Elijah probably said, “Son listen, I made a mistake. I ran away from an opportunity for God to work simply because I was scared to death about me. Don’t ever make that mistake. When you’re surrounded and it seems impossible, just wait. Because you’re going to make the most pitiful mistake when you’re most eager to act.”

The flesh loves excitement. It’s always ready to run up and do something. The spirit does not.

Satan rushes men, but God leads them. Never act in panic nor allow men to dictate what we do. We must calm ourselves. Force ourselves into the closet and wait for the Lord to make known His way, then move out in victory and confidence, controlled by the Spirit of God who is directing.

Look at verse 16. That’s exactly what he does.

v. 16 So he answered, “Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.”

“So he answered, ‘Don’t fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.’”

Isaiah 26:3

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee...

Keep the focus on Him and not on our circumstances and we're going to be alright.

“Fear not, for I am with you,’ the Lord says. “Don’t be dismayed for I am your God. I’ll strengthen you, I’ll help you.” (ref. Isaiah 41:10)

What he says is when the statistics are all in, those that are for us are more than those who are for them.

Romans 8:31

What then shall we say to these things, if God is for us, who is against us?

One little girl really misinterpreted that when she was quoting it for her momma. She said, “If God be for us you’re up against it.” Us and God make a majority in this situation.

“But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through him who loved us.” (Romans 8:37)

v. 17 Then Elisha prayed and said, “O Lord, I pray, open his eyes that he may see.” And the Lord opened the servant’s eyes, and he saw; and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

“Then Elisha prayed and said, ‘O Lord, I pray, open his eyes that he may see.’ And the Lord opened the servant’s eyes, and he saw; and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.”

1 Corinthians 2:14

The natural man receives not the things of the Spirit of God for they’re foolishness unto him...

Ephesians 1:18

I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened so that you may know the hope of his calling...

Psalms 119:18

Open my eyes that I may behold wonderful things out thy law

Alright students of Bible history, what happened to Dothan? Remember?

Alright, who’s the guy in the Old Testament who got a beautiful letter jacket from his daddy? Huh? A coat of many colors? Joseph.

Remember at 17 what his dad told him to do? He said, “Go look for your brothers.” Were his brother’s ticked at him? Man, were they upset. Joseph had these dreams and acted like he

was going to be king of the place and dad sent them off to Shechem to tend the sheep, to cool down the temperature at the house.

And so finally dad says, “Take some hotdogs and potato chips. You can have the chrome-wheeled chariot. Run up there and check on those guys.” And so that’s what he does.

And when he gets to Shechem he finds out they’ve gone to Dothan. Does he stop? No, he goes to Dothan. What’d they do? They strip his coat off of him, throw him into a pit and then sell him into Egypt.

Think the same horses and chariots of fire were there in Dothan then for Joseph as they are now? The answer is yes. God always protects his servant. But it was God’s purpose for that to happen to Joseph so that the seed of Abraham might be in a land that was not theirs for 430 years.

A lot of times we can say something and our focus looks like it’s a bad deal, but from God’s it might be the fulfillment of a purpose.

Whereas Elisha’s delivered in this situation, Joseph isn’t. But that doesn’t mean that God’s unfair to Joseph. It means that He has another purpose with him in mind. And so He allowed Joseph to be sold into the land of Egypt.

v. 18 And when they came down to him, Elisha prayed to the Lord and said, “Strike this people with

blindness, I pray.” So He struck them with blindness according to the word of Elisha.

“And when they came down to him, Elisha prayed to the Lord and said, ‘Strike this people with blindness, I pray.’ So He struck them with blindness according to the word of Elisha.”

Now why? Well it’d be tough for them to cut him up with a sword if they couldn’t see so he asked for that for the present.

v. 19 Then Elisha said to them, “This is not the way, nor is this the city; follow me and I will bring you to the man whom you seek.” And he brought them to Samaria.

“Then Elisha said to them, ‘This is not the way, nor is this the city; follow me and I will bring you to the man whom you seek.’ And he brought them to Samaria.”

He thought they were coming after the king anyway so he thought, “I’ll just take him to the head honcho, we’ll get him up to Jehoram himself.”

v. 20 And it came about when they had come into Samaria, that Elisha said, “O Lord, open the eyes of these men, that they may see.” So the Lord opened their eyes, and they saw; and behold, they were in the midst of Samaria.

“And it came about when they had come into Samaria, that

Elisha said, ‘O Lord, open the eyes of these men, that they may see.’ So the Lord opened their eyes, and they saw; and behold, they were in the midst of Samaria.”

Now there’s a great principle here. There are going to be a lot of people who, according to 2 Corinthians 4:4, “The god of this world has blinded their minds thus they believe, unless the light of the glorious gospel of Christ should shine unto them.”

And those very people are going to wake up in the camp of the enemy in eternity. They’re going to say, “Lord, Lord! Haven’t we done this!” And the Lord will say, “Depart from Me, I never knew you.”

What a tragedy to wake up in the enemy camp because of neglect. These guys just go stumbling along the road and they end up right in the middle of the camp of the enemy.

v. 21 Then the king of Israel when he saw them, said to Elisha, “My father, shall I kill them? Shall I kill them?”

“Then the king of Israel”—this is old Jehoram. Boy is he excited.

“when he saw them, said to Elisha, ‘My father, shall I kill them? Shall I kill them?’”

Great opportunity to win the war here!

v. 22 And he answered, “You shall not kill them. Would you kill those you have taken captive with your sword and with your bow? Set bread and water before them, that they may eat and drink and go to their master.”

“And he answered, ‘You shall not kill them. Would you kill those you have taken captive with your sword and with your bow? Set bread and water before them, that they may eat and drink and go to their master.’”

That principle is in Romans 12:

Romans 12:19-21

Never take your own revenge beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord. But if your enemy is hungry, feed him; and if he is thirsty, give him to drink. For in so doing you will heap burning coals upon his head. Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

v. 23 So he prepared a great feast for them; and when they had eaten and drunk he sent them away, and they went to their master. And the marauding bands of Syria did not come again into the land of Israel.

“So he prepared a great feast for them; and when they had eaten and drunk he sent them away, and they went to their

master. And the marauding bands of Syria did not come again into the land of Israel.”

Alright that ends our study, but here are the lessons that we get out of this particular section of the Word of God.

Lesson #1: How gracious the Lord is to provide and to prosper for our ministry when we are willing to trust Him. We see this in the need for expansion of Elisha’s facilities for the seminary in Gilgal.

Lesson #2: There are going to be unforeseen accidents that happen in our lives as Christians. And it is at times like this we need to respond and trust Him instead of reacting. And know that all things work together for good. (See Romans 8:28 & James 1:5).

Respond with Romans 8:28: “God is working all things together.” So we’re waiting for Him to reveal.

“If you lack wisdom, ask of God. Let His wisdom how to relate to your trial.” (James 1:5)

There are going to be unforeseen accidents that happen in those times we need to just trust Him and know that He’ll work it all together for good. (Romans 8:28 and James 1:5)

Lesson #3: Is the axe head sunk in the mud and mire of the muddy Jordan a picture of your life? Would you not allow God Himself to cast into your presence the cross of Christ? And for

you by faith to receive the gift of life, so that you might be restored to usefulness and the accomplishment of His purpose in your life? Continued resistance only delays blessing.

To be without Jesus Christ is to be sunk in a sea of sin, separated from the handle, slipped off the handle. God has made provision for that and it's yours for the taking.

Maybe someone is a Christian out of fellowship. Where did it fall? Are they willing to go back to that point and realize that since that time their life has been decaying and eroding away? They've become lukewarm toward the Lord. They're ineffective. Every time they come to pray it's always where the axe head fell that the Lord speaks about.

How long are we going to detain in dealing with that? The time left that the Lord has for us is time to repent and to deal with that and be brought to blessing in our life.

Lesson #4: The Syrians who were enemies to the people of God remind us that Satan is a roaring lion, roving about, seeking whom he may devour.

Lesson #5: "The angel of the Lord encampeth around them that fear him and delivereth them" (Psalm 34:7).

Lesson #6: How quick the Lord is ready to answer our prayers when we are walking in fellowship with Him and accomplishing His will.

Lesson #7: We need not fear when we see things from the divine perspective, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them. (See Isaiah 26:3 & Isaiah 59:17).

Isaiah 59:17

When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord will lift up a standard against them.

Isaiah 26:3

Thou will keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee.

Lesson #8: Ministering to the needs of our enemies often times neutralizes their opposition.

Father, we thank You for Your Word. Thank You for the power of Your Spirit, who takes the Word of God and convicts hearts. There've been a lot of lessons in this study, a lot of things for us to think about. Perhaps someone is eager to make a decision right now and You want them to take time with You and be still and know that You're God. And to wait before they make that decision to be sure that the peace of God is really in their hearts and that they're walking in the center of Your will. Perhaps there are others who know that the axe head is in the river. They know where it fell and they need to go back, restored to fellowship once again, knowing the joy of a personal relationship with Christ can move ahead toward spiritual maturity. And perhaps there are those who

do not know the Christ, we pray that they would come to know the Savior. You said if He'd be lifted up He'd draw all men to Himself. We pray that will happen many times during these remaining studies. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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What You Need to Know About ELISHA:

“Heir of the Spirit: ‘What wish shall I grant you before I am taken away’ (2 Kings 2:9)”

Study Number Five – 2 Kings 6:1-23

Notes

v. 1 Now the sons of the prophets said to Elisha, “Behold now, the place before you where we are living is too limited for us.”

v. 2 Please let us go to the Jordan, and each of us take from there a beam, and let us make a place there for ourselves where we may live.” So he said, “Go.”

v. 3 Then one said, “Please be willing to go with your servants.” And he answered, “I shall go.”

v. 4 So he went with them; and when they came to the Jordan, they cut down trees.

v. 5 But as one was felling a beam, the axe head fell into the water; and he cried out and said, “Alas, my master! For it was borrowed.”

v. 6 Then the man of God said, “Where did it fall?” And when he showed him the place, he cut off a stick, and threw it in there, and made the iron float.

v. 7 And he said, “Take it up for yourself.” So he put out his hand and took it.

v. 8 Now the king of Syria was warring against Israel; and he counseled with his servants saying, “In such and such a place shall be my camp.”

v. 9 And the man of God sent word to the king of Israel saying, “Beware that you do not pass this place, for the Syrians are coming down there.”

v. 10 And the king of Israel sent to the place about which the man of God had told him; thus he warned him, so that he guarded himself there, more than once or twice.

Notes

v. 11 Now the heart of the king of Syria was enraged over this thing; and he called his servants and said to them, “Will you tell me which of us is for the king of Israel?”

v. 12 And one of his servants said, “No, my lord, O king; but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the words that you speak in your bedroom.”

v. 13 So he said, “Go and see where he is, that I may send and take him.” And it was told him, saying, “Behold, he is in Dothan.”

v. 14 And he sent horses and chariots and a great army there, and they came by night and surrounded the city.

v. 15 Now when the attendant of the man of God had risen early and gone out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was circling the city. And his servant said to him, “Alas, my master! What shall we do?”

v. 16 So he answered, “Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.”

v. 17 Then Elisha prayed and said, “O Lord, I pray, open his eyes that he may see.” And the Lord opened the servant’s eyes, and he saw; and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

v. 18 And when they came down to him, Elisha prayed to the Lord and said, “Strike this people with blindness, I pray.” So He struck them with blindness according to the word of Elisha.

v. 19 Then Elisha said to them, “This is not the way, nor is this the city; follow me and I will bring you to the man whom you seek.” And he brought them to Samaria.

v. 20 And it came about when they had come into Samaria, that Elisha said, “O Lord, open the eyes of these men, that they may see.” So the Lord opened their eyes, and they saw; and behold, they were in the midst of Samaria.

v. 21 Then the king of Israel when he saw them, said to Elisha, “My father, shall I kill them? Shall I kill them?”

v. 22 And he answered, “You shall not kill them. Would you kill those you have taken captive with your sword and with your bow? Set bread and water before them, that they may eat and drink and go to their master.”

v. 23 So he prepared a great feast for them; and when they had eaten and drunk he sent them away, and they went to their master. And the marauding bands of Syria did not come again into the land of Israel.

QUESTIONS:

1. Read 2 Kings 6:1-23 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. What is the problem in verse 1?

3. What is the recommendation of verse 2?

4. Describe the accident in verse 5 and the solution in verse 6.

5. How does Elisha help the king of Israel in protecting him from his enemies?

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6. What is Elisha's prayer in verse 17?

7. Describe Elisha's part in the battle with the Syrians.

8. What is the king's reaction in verse 21?

9. Which verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: How gracious the Lord is to provide and to prosper for our ministry when we are willing to trust Him. We see this in the need for expansion of Elisha's facilities for the seminary in Gilgal.

LESSON #2: There are going to be unforeseen accidents that happen in our lives as Christians. And it is at times like this we need to respond and trust Him instead of reacting. And know that all things work together for good. (See Romans 8:28 & James 1:5).

LESSON #3: Is the axe head sunk in the mud and mire of the muddy Jordan a picture of your life? Would you not allow God Himself to cast into your presence the cross of Christ? And for you by faith to receive the gift of life, so that you might be restored to usefulness and the accomplishment of His purpose in your life? Continued resistance only delays blessing.

LESSON #4: The Syrians who were enemies to the people of God remind us that Satan is a roaring lion, roving about, seeking whom he may devour.

LESSON #5: “The angel of the Lord encampeth around them that fear him and delivereth them” (Psalm 34:7).

LESSON #6: How quick the Lord is ready to answer our prayers when we are walking in fellowship with Him and accomplishing His will.

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