



Sermon Series Notes

“Big Miracles For Little Things” 2 Kings 6:1-7

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Intro: In 2 Kings we are following the ministry of Elisha the man of God. Elisha had been Elijah’s servant and had taken over his ministry when God took him up to heaven. Elisha’s last request of Elijah was to inherit a double portion of his spirit which God granted. Both Elijah and Elisha lived during an incredibly difficult and dysfunctional period of Israel’s history. Yet through them, we see God’s grace and power towards his people displayed in the mists of very dire circumstances.

We are studying highlights of 2 Kings and since it seems that everything that happened in Elisha’s life was a miraculous highlight, we are going to pick up where Pastor Tom left off.

2 Kings 6:1-7

1. Big Miracles for Little Things

- a. We all have stories of things that happen to us in life. Sometimes those stories are worthy of being shared with others, sometimes they are not. Sometimes there are certain people who share with us stories that are really not interesting enough to be worthy of sharing. Am I right? We know who those people are.
 - One of my many weaknesses is not paying attention when someone is telling me a story that I have absolutely no interest in. My wife is working with me on that.
- b. It seems like the story of a nameless guy losing an axhead in a river 2800 years ago would fall into the category of a story not worthy of being retold. But with Elisha there it turns into a spectacular miracle that God records for us in Scripture to learn from.
- c. One of the things this story shows us is that God cares about the little things in our lives. God is interesting in listening to us, even when others aren’t. God cares about the big things in our lives, and He also cares about the things that seem little in our lives to others.

2. The Bigger Things.

- a. The company of the prophets needed a bigger meeting place. If you have ever undertaken the task of starting a serious construction project on your own, you know can be big and daunting challenge.
- b. This company of the prophets were basically Bible school students. They weren’t necessarily skilled in construction work. We learned from last weeks story of Gehazi asking Naaman for

money and clothing, supposedly for the company of the prophets, that they had financial challenges. They certainly weren't getting rich from the ministry. So they ask Elisha if they can go to the Jordan and cut trees to build a bigger meeting place and they ask Elisha to come with them and he agrees. If you have Elisha with you on any project, your feeling pretty confident because it is obvious that God is with this guy in a powerful way.

c. Personal Testimony of Our Home Addition

- Share about our situation with housing market and growing family
- Share how our kids prayed every day for a bigger house
- Started a side business
- When Frank offered to go with me
- I came on staff here doing construction with Frank. I have been on overseas building trips under Frank's leadership and seen amazing miracles of construction. I saw two houses built in four days by a team of guys from this church and most weren't skilled in construction.
- Frank is basically the Elisha of construction.
- Brothers from this church got involved, Men of Arms came out. The addition got built and the day before our daughter came home from the hospital I got a bed in our new bedroom.
- My family looks at our house and how the body of Christ partnered with us and we see a big miracle.

3. The Little Things

a. In the midst of this big construction project one of the guys loses an iron axhead in the river. He sort of freaks out, "Oh no, my lord! It was borrowed!"

- The Man of God asked, "Where did it fall?"
- Elisha didn't say, "Dude, its just an axhead, get over it." He showed interest in this man's loss and he realized while it may have not been a big deal to others, it was a big deal to this individual. Elisha the man of God is representing God's heart towards others.
- This took place around 850 B.C., which is known in archeology as being during the iron age. In that region an iron axhead would be a pretty advanced piece of technology. It took a lot of intense skill and labor to produce the a quality of iron that would be hard enough to be used as an axhead; there were only a few regions that produced quality iron tools and they had to be imported from these regions. So this axhead was pretty valuable in that day. He

could not just go on Amazon prime and order a new axe for \$28 and get free 2 day shipping like I would do if I lost a borrowed axe today.

- I'm sure all of us who know the Lord have a testimony about how God came through in a miraculous way in something that was very big in our lives. But I'm sure we also have many testimonies about how God had come through in miraculous ways with little things in our lives.
 - Lost iPhone in Ga.
- b. Elisha cut a stick and threw it there, and made the iron float.
- Why did Elisha cut a stick and throw it in the water?
 - *Charles Spurgeon - God can do all things, he can make iron swim-we cannot-and yet you see the prophet did it, and he did it by the use of a stick. He cut down a stick. Was there any connection between the stick and the iron? I can't see any, and yet God does use means, and he would have us use means. "He cut down a stick and cast it in thither, and the iron did swim." If you're in great trouble tonight, have confidence in that God who can make the iron swim. If you have some worry, and you do not know how to meet it, some work, and you do not know how to do it, look to him who made the iron swim and he can do the same for you. Trust him, rest upon him and see if he does not do it.*
 - When we are in dire circumstance and it seems like all is lost, we are never going to figure out what miraculous work God is going to do and how God is going to do it. God always surprises us with what he does and the means He uses to do it.
 - Ephesians 3:20-21, ²⁰Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, ²¹to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen."
- c. "Lift it out," he said. Then the man reached out his hand and took it.
- God is in the business of saving things that are lost. God cares about lost axheads. God cares about fallen sparrows. But what God shows the greatest care for is lost people.
 - Luke 19:9-10, ⁹Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."
 - This describes Jesus' mission on earth. We have been lost to sin. Jesus came to deal with the problem of sin and reconcile us back to God. The means that God uses save from being lost is the cross of Christ.

- God had a tree cut and He placed His Son on that tree and threw him into the raging chaos of our sin, judgment and death. It seemed that all was lost as Jesus was buried in grave. But then Jesus rose. All was found!
- Just as Elisha told the man, “Lift it out, and he reached out his hand and took it.” God holds out the gospel of Jesus Christ to the us. We have the responsibility of reaching out by faith and taking hold of the salvation that God has accomplished.
- Philippians 3:7-12, “⁷ But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead. ¹² Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.”

Closing Thoughts: Like Elisha, we are living through an incredibly difficult period among God’s people. But God continues to do miraculous works in the midst of the challenges, sins and dysfunction of His people. Jesus’ mission of seeking and saving the lost has not changed, and neither has our mission. We are called to shine the light of the gospel of Jesus Christ to our community and our world. Jesus is in the middle of a great construction project. He is building His church and some parts of construction are messy. We need to get our eyes off ourselves, look to our Leader, Jesus, and each do our part to build up the body of Christ so that we can heal and get back to doing our mission well.

Ephesians 4:11-16, “¹¹ So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. ¹⁴ Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. ¹⁵ Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. ¹⁶ From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.”