

Obey In The Small Things

Aram was the king of Syria and he was at war with Israel when he devised a top secret plan to attack them. However, it failed as did many of his plans did and he was getting frustrated. He knew something had to be wrong. He was being defeated on every turn and began to think that his secrets were being shared by someone from his inner circle. The king of Syria then accused his servants of being spies for the king of Israel.

With every plan that was made, the king of Israel seemed to know exactly what was going on. One servant then told the king that it wasn't them but it was God and His prophet Elisha. 2 Kings 6:11-12 says, *"Therefore the heart of the king of Syria was greatly troubled by this thing; and he called his servants and said to them, 'Will you not show me which of us is for the king of Israel? And one of his servants said, 'None, 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.'"*

As you can imagine the king was very worried about this and to solve his problem he decided that capturing Elisha was the only way to stop the leak of information. So, he sent in his armies to the house that Elisha was at. He was so desperate that he sent a great army in to seize this one man. It was so large that they were able to surround the entire town. Verses 13-14, *"So he said, 'Go and see where he is, that I may send and get him.' And it was told him, saying, 'Surely he is in Dothan.' Therefore he sent horses and chariots and a great army there, and they came by night and surrounded the city."* It was Elisha's servant who first discovered the situation. 15, *"And when the servant of the man of God arose early and went out, there was an army, surrounding the city with horses and chariots. And his servant said to him, 'Alas, my master! What shall we do?'"* That is quite the thing, to wake up and discover that you are the part of the target of an army. The servant was very scared and did not know what to do.

I can relate to this servant because there has been many times that I have found myself in a place with no answers on what to do. I am sure you also can testify of times of being fully surrounded by the enemy with no natural way to win. That is why this story is so important for us to learn from. At this time of your walk with God you will find many times when you are at the end of your natural ability to fix your circumstances. You might be in the middle of circumstances where everything you've tried hasn't worked to fix it. Maybe you are believing for something to happen in your life and you no longer have the strength to make it happen on your own. I have found that most Christians wait to run to God when they have run out of their power. Many of us have lost the ability to see in the spiritual realm because we live in our own natural strength. When we follow God, He wants to be part of our life every day and He desires to be there for us every single day, not only when there is trouble.

It is important for you and I to see ourselves for who we really are; children of God. We are spiritual beings and in the family of God. When Elisha saw the situation he didn't panic like the servant did; he simply looked into the spiritual realm from where his help always came from. Elisha didn't look for help only because there was a problem, he lived in that place of dependency on God all the time. So when a big problem arose he had the confidence that that it would be alright.

In the beginning of this exact same chapter that we are discussing you can read how one of the men who was working at chopping down trees lost his iron ax head into the water. He cried out because it was borrowed and Elisha responded and made it float on the water so it could be picked up. Elisha was the man the people looked to when there was trouble because he was at peace and he had confidence that with God all things can be worked out. He got this strength of faith because he lived a life that was dependent on God and not on his own ability.

I believe that you and I can also have that strength that comes from God. We can be the one who has confidence and peace in all situations. We can know that God will show up in the big things because He showed up for us in all the little things. So many Christians are blind to the spiritual because they live every day in the natural. It is easy to live in our own strength when we have a handle on life. When things are going good we can forget that God wants to be involved with us all the time and not just when we cannot fix it.

As I have discovered just how much He loves me I have also found that He longs to show me that He is here. There were many times when God nudged me to do small things that didn't seem to matter. Like the time He told me to give my last five dollars to a millionaire and I didn't understand why but I still obeyed. The time he wanted me to talk to someone when I did want to or when I had to forgive a person who didn't deserve it. These are some small examples of overriding my natural thinking to obey God's directions. I didn't know that these small steps of obedience were preparing me to trust Him in difficult times. There was a day when our vehicle was at the end of its life and we had no earthly way of getting another one. As a minister I only had one option and that was to trust God. My wife and I didn't tell anyone of our situation, we just continued on with a trust that God will have an answer because He always does. It wasn't long before someone emailed us and shared that the Lord had put on their heart to bless us with a wonderful vehicle. It was as if God tapped me on the shoulder and said, "see, I have you covered".

In 2 Kings 6:16, *"So he answered, 'Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.' And Elisha prayed, and said, 'Lord, I pray, open his eyes that he may see.' **Then the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw.** And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha."* God allowed the servant to see what Elisha had already known, that there was nothing to fear even when it looked impossible.

I want to encourage you to abandon your life into the hands of our Lord and spend time listening and obeying His voice today. A life full of adventure and wonder is what He has in store for you; days of little miracles and big miracles are ahead. **Trust Him** with everything and you will discover the same thing that Elisha did, that if you ever have to face something that is impossible you will not be afraid because your eyes have already been open to the spiritual realm.