

Elijah/Elisha – Standing Alone

Week 17 – Open Eyes

Transition: Last week we looked at perhaps the least astounding of God’s miracles through Elisha—the retrieval of a borrowed axe head that sank in the Jordan River. Although this miracle may not immediately appear to have the impact of some of the other miracles, with deeper reflection, its spiritual weight rises to the surface.

Context: This week, in stark contrast to last week’s “insignificant” miracle, Elisha is thrust into a situation of terrible importance to the northern kingdom of Israel—the imminent invasion of Syria’s (Aram’s) mighty army. This story serves to remind us that God is always at work on behalf of His people, even if we don’t have eyes to see it.

Opening Questions:

- When have you been unaware of God’s active presence in a situation, but later realized He was there all along? What was the situation and how did you become aware of His presence? How does it continue to affect you?
- When have you been merciful and/or gracious to an “enemy?” Why was this person your enemy and what did you do that was merciful or gracious? How did it affect your relationship?

Scripture/Storying: 2 Kings 6:8-23

Discipleship Questions:

- What is your overall reaction to this passage? What impression does it make on you and why?
- Why does the king of Syria want to seize Elisha (v13)? In what ways do people who do not know the Lord do similar things today?
- How does God’s knowing literally everything you think, say, and do make you feel? How might dwelling on its reality on a daily basis influence the way you live?
- When the king of Syria’s army surrounds Elisha’s home, Elisha’s servant is frightened. So, Elisha prays that his eyes will be opened (v15-17). How does this scene help you deal with your own anxiety-inducing situations?
- Elisha prays for the Syrian armies to be blinded and then leads them to the king of Israel where their eyes are opened again. The king of Israel then asks Elisha if he should strike them down, but in an act of mercy, Elisha tells him no (v18-22a). Why do you think Elisha does this? How does this affect your worldview, and your attitude?
- After being given mercy, the Syrian army is graciously fed a banquet by the king of Israel and then released to go back home. What affect did this have on the Syrians? Is there a situation in your life where you can be lavishly gracious to an “enemy?” Share the situation with the group (and group...please pray for this person).
- In what ways do the events of this story remind you of Jesus?
- What is the Holy Spirit teaching you through this story? How does it impact the way you think and live?

Prayer time: This week we are praying for David and Katya Snead, missionaries to Ukraine that Providence supports.

- Pray for their newly started small group, and that their new apartment will be suitable for hosting the group.
- Pray that the Lord will draw each believer (and unbeliever) in the group closer to Himself and raise up an apprentice leader to branch the group when the time is right.
- Pray that David will recover from a cold quickly (and fully) and that Katya will not get sick.