II Kings 6

Review…

- **I Kings 5 – The healing of Naaman…**
  - Naaman was the General of the Syrian army - but he suffered from Leprosy…
    - The King of Syria sent Naaman to the King of Israel to be healed…
    - Elisha heard about it – and sent for Naaman so he could see a true prophet of Israel!
    - When Naaman came – Elisha just sent word – go bath in the Jordan 7 times…
    - Naaman was FURIOUS – because Elisha had not even come to the door…
    - And because there were cleaner rivers than the Jordan in Syria!
  - The servant of Naaman came to his master…
    - If Elisha had asked a great feat from Naaman – he would have done it…
    - So why not try the simple task the prophet had required!
    - Naaman went and bathed 7 times in the Jordan – and he was healed!
  - Naaman went back and confessed now he knew there was only one God in all the earth!
    - Elisha refused to take anything from Naaman – because the Good News is free…
    - But Gehazi – the servant of Elisha – secretly went after Naaman…
    - Elisha knew what his Gehazi had done – Elisha told him this is not the time for wealth!
    - And as a result of his greed – Gehazi became as leprous as Naaman had been!

The trial of Samaria… (*4 things*)

- **1st – The floating ax head… vs. 1-7** Read: II Kings 6:1-7
  - 1st – A group of prophets came to Elisha… vs. 1-4
    - The place where they met was too small for them – they needed a larger 'church'…
      - They wanted to build a bigger facility closer to the Jordan River…
      - Each person would bring a log – and together they would build the new place!
      - People often get the idea that building the church is someone else's responsibility…
      - But each of has a 'piece of bamboo' to carry – a part in building the church…
      - Maybe it literally digging a ditch / or mixing up some concrete…
      - Or it might be helping to cook the 'aroz caldo' / or sweeping up after service…
      - But it only when we all come together and do our part – the church works!

- Elisha agreed to go along with them – and help them build…
  - Pastors are first and foremost to be servants – they are the example for the church...
  - They should be the first one to pick up the broom / the first to pull the weeds!

- 2nd – As they cut down the trees – one of the prophets lost his axe head… vs. 5-7
  - It flew off the handle – and landed in the Jordan River – and was lost…
    - The problem was – it was a borrowed axe – and the prophet could not replace it!
    - A lot of people like to 'borrow' things from family / neighbors…
    - The problem is what happens when what was borrowed breaks / or is lost…
    - People like to make excuses – 'it was already old' / 'I do not know what happened'…
    - But according to the Bible – it is your responsibility – **Exodus 22:7-11**
    - So if you are not able to replace what you borrow – do not borrow it!
  - Elisha asked where the axe head had fallen into the River…
    - He threw a stick into the same spot – and the metal axe head floated to the surface!
    - I always seems to be misplacing things – keys / wallet / cell phone…
    - I have a tendency to just put them down – and forget where I placed them…
    - As a general rule – if you misplace something take a moment to pray…
    - God has a way of making your 'lost' items miraculously surface!
    - Perhaps in the door you left the keys in / or the pocket you were sure you checked!

- **2nd – The hidden spy… vs. 8-12** Read: II Kings 6:8-12
  - 1st – The King of Syria (*Aram*) was at war with Israel… vs. 8-10
    - He would make plans with his generals to attack a certain city in Israel…
      - But immediately Elisha the Prophet would go and warn the King of Israel…
      - So King Jehoram would be prepared – and was able to defeat the King of Syria…
    - This happened on several occasions – to the great frustration of the King of Syria!
      - You never want to be on the wrong side with God – He does not fight fare…
      - In **Joshua 10:11** God sent hail to wipe out the armies fighting Israel…
      - In **Isaiah 37:36** God sent an angel to wipe out 185,000 man Assyrian army…
      - Here God let Elisha know the secret plans of Syria – assuring their defeat in battle!
      - It is no wonder Paul says - 'If God is for us, who can be against us...' - **Romans 8:31**
  - 2nd – The King of Syria was convinced there was a spy… vs. 11-12
    - He demanded to know which one of his officers was a traitor…
      - But they all assured him they were loyal – the 'traitor' was Elisha the prophet…
      - Elisha knew even the secret conversations they had in their bedrooms!
    - Obviously Elisha was not listening to the secret plans of the King of Syria…
      - And Elisha was most definitely not in the bedrooms of his officials…
      - But God was there – because there is nothing hidden from the Lord!

- **Hebrews 4:13** - "Nothing in all creation can hide from him. Everything is naked and exposed before his eyes. The God to whom we must explain all that we have done."
- People think that no one sees the sin in their lives – no one knows what they did…
- The way you looked at that woman / the thing you took from the store…
- But Every action / every word / every thought is open and seen by the Lord...
- And for every action/word/thought - we will one day be judged for!
- Unless we receive the forgiveness of Jesus - unless we have a relationship with Him!

- **3RD – OPEN YOUR EYES… VS. 13-23** READ: II KINGS 6:13-23
  - 1st – The King of Syria demanded Elisha be arrested… vs. 13-15
    - He sent a great army – horses and chariots – to surround the city of Dothan at night…
      - When the servant of Elisha woke up the next morning – he panicked!
      - He cried out to Elisha – 'What are we going to do now – we are surrounded!'
    - He had good reason to be panicked – they were in a LOT of trouble!
      - When we look at our circumstances – they are often VERY overwhelming…
      - We see only a handful of pesos in our pocket – and bills that demand thousands…
      - The natural reaction is to panic – because we are in a LOT of trouble!
  - 2nd – Elisha told his servant 'do not panic'… vs. 16-17
    - Then Elisha prayed for the Lord to open they eyes of his servant…
      - The servant looked up – and the hillside around Elisha was filled…
      - Horses and chariots of fire – an army of angels surrounding the army of Syria!
      - It is easy to forget sometimes whom we have on our side...
      - When everything seems to be against us – we can think we are at a disadvantage…
      - But the reality is with Jesus – no matter who is against us – we have the majority!
      - We have nothing to fear – because there are more with us than there is with them!
    - We also need to remember there is a very real world all around us – a Spiritual world…
      - In **Daniel 10:13** – and angel came to give Daniel a message from God…
      - But the Angel told Daniel it took him 21 days to get to the prophet…
      - The demon of Persia blocked him – until Michael the archangel came and helped!
      - It is easy to look at events around us – and forget we are in a Spiritual battle!
      - And the only way to win that battle is to go to our knees in prayer…
      - Then like the servant of Elisha – our eyes are opened and we can see…
      - Our perspective changes – and we see our circumstances in a new light...
      - We no longer see our problems - instead our God who is greater than any problem!
      - Our problems swallowed up in the praise of our incredible Lord!
      - **Philippians 4:6** - "Do not worry about anything; instead, pray about everything..."
  - 3rd – The Syrian army advanced on the city… vs. 18-23
    - Elisha prayed – and the Lord 'confused' the troops so they did not recognize Elisha…
      - Elisha told their commander this was the wrong city – but he would lead them…
      - He took them to Samaria – and handed them over King Jehoram!
      - Only then – once they were captured – were their eyes opened!

- King Jehoram wanted to kill the Syrian soldiers (*he asked twice*)!
  - But Elisha rebuked him – even soldiers captured in battle were spared…
  - How much more these men who had been deceived and led blindly into captivity!
  - So instead Jehoram threw the soldiers a feast – and sent them home…
  - After that the King of Syria no longer sent raiding parties into Israel!
- Often in life we miss who the real enemy is - we look at the people...
  - Like Jehoram – we want to punish those who attack and hurt us…
  - But we forget that they are blinded – they need to have their eyes opened…
  - They need someone to take them by the hand and lead them…
  - Not to their destruction – but to the feast – lead them to Jesus Christ…
  - Like Elisha we need to pray for those who attack us – so they can see and believe!

- **4TH – THE SEIGE OF SAMARIA… VS. 24-33** READ: II KINGS 6:24-33
  - 1st – Some time later – Syria gathered all of its army and besieged Samaria… vs. 24-25
    - Ancient cities would have high / thick walls that protected them from attack…
      - But their one flaw was their fields / food – were often outside the city walls…
      - So a siege – lasting several years – could slowly starved the city to surrender!
    - Syria completely surrounded the Samaria – cutting off their access to food…
      - Even the head donkey – a forbidden unclean animal – sold for over P30,000…
      - And 60gm of the dung of a dove – cost almost P2,000…
      - In other words it caused a GREAT famine in the city – there was NOTHING to eat!
    - God was allowing Israel to be punished because of their sin…
      - They continued to reject God – seek after pleasure – and worship false gods!
      - God knows how to get our attention - one of the best ways is our finances...
      - So God will allows us to go through times of 'famine' - no food / no money...
      - He 'punishes us' for our sin - not cause He is angry with us – but to try and save us!
  - 2nd – One day King Jehoram was walking along the wall… vs. 26-30
    - A woman called out to him – please help me my Lord / King…
      - But the retorted – if God cannot help you – what can I do!
      - He told the woman he had nether food nor wine to give to her!
      - The King was absolutely right – the answer was not in men – but in God…
      - The problem is people are limited – and can not always help…
      - Maybe they can help once – but when you come back - again and again...
      - They have limited abilities and resources – only God has the answer we need!
    - But them woman did not want food…
      - She had made an agreement with her neighbor – they would eat her son one day…
        - And the next day they would eat her neighbors son…
        - But after eating her son – her neighbor had hidden the 2nd son!
        - When the King heard this he tore his clothes in despair / and put on sackcloth!

- This was the very thing God had warned Israel would happen…
  - **Deuteronomy 28:52-57** – "You will eat the flesh of your own sons…"
  - They were warned they would be so hungry they would eat their own children...
  - The kindest man - would not share with his family his child he was eating!
  - The sweetest woman - would hide her afterbirth and baby - to eat them!
  - All because Israel refused to turn and repent from their sin!
  - Sin is devastating - if we refuse to repent of our sin - it will destroy our lives...
  - That is why God is willing to do almost anything to get our attention…
  - If we do not listen to the tap on the shoulder – He will swing the BIG stick…
  - Because the cost of not repenting is to great – it is eternal separation from God!
  - **Hebrews 3:13 -** "Exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin."

- 3rd – King Jehoram turned his anger towards Elisha…
  - Perhaps because Elisha had told the King this siege was a punishment from God…
    - So the King vowed – 'May God kill me if I do not execute Elisha this very day!'
    - And the King was angry with God and blamed Him for the siege on Samaria…
    - He refused to see that the siege was a consequence of his sins…
    - Therefore he refused to turn back to the Lord – who alone could save the city!
  - Often when life falls apart - we want to blame God for the horrors of our life...
    - If you get an unwanted bill from NOCECO – you do not hit the delivery man…
    - It is not his fault if your bill is too high – he is just the messenger!
    - Yet we seem to like to attack those who bring us the truth…
    - Cause it is far easier to blame others – than to admit to our own faults…
    - But it is not God's fault - we have chosen not to obey the Lord...
    - And until we admit we are the problem – there is nothing God can do to help us!