

St. Paul's Dorking Small Groups. Sept 16th 2007

Hidden - Elisha : Now you see - now you don't.

2 Kings 6: 8-23



Word:Key points from Sunday's sermon

Elisha: Hidden – Revealed, Now you see - now you don't! Elisha was a prophet who was called, and who wanted more and more of GOD. He had been taught by Elijah, and had wanted more of what Elijah had of God's Spirit. A prophet revealed the truth that was unknown and unseen. He or she spoke the mind of God, not as it was written on paper but as it was revealed directly to them. Elisha pursued Elijah to learn all he could from him. We can look at Jesus and learn from him. **Rather hoping I can become like Jesus by osmosis!!** However spiritual maturity does not rub off on you, you have to exercise and practice the disciplines Jesus practiced. Life is busy and full of responsibilities, but look out for those who can teach you and encourage you. AND ask God for more of HIM... he has so much more to give you.

A calling that was hidden, costly and vital : Elisha found himself detested by the pagan kings for his great gift of prophecy and prayer. Can only be effective if God is giving the gift and responding, so it is God they are truly angry with. Elisha only knows what he sees and hears from God. It's all God's fault really! His gift of prophecy was consistently accurate. Many catastrophes were prevented by Elisha's warnings and by them being heeded by the king of Israel who became used to listening to God through Elisha. The confidence has to be in the word from God, not the prophet

God's word protects 8-10 : but need to have confidence in it. Key: when the word is hard then don't run away: **Draw Close to God and He will draw close to you** **11 The King is mystified...** he could not see what was happening and had no categories to work out what was going on. **12** Army officers were not able to see or hear God but they knew a man who did. And they knew enough to know it was a prophetic gift **13** and a lethal weapon. Being a hidden prophet attracted attention of the enemy

Need Spiritual sight: 14,15 Oh, my lord, what shall we do? **the servant asked.** Like others around Elisha the **servant did not have his spiritual sight** and so when earthly catastrophes struck succumbed to anxiety fear and terror. **16** Don't be afraid, the prophet answered. **Those who are with us are more than those who are with them.** Elisha speaks into the servant's situation he passes on his knowledge, experience insight.

He sees that which is hidden 17: i) The armies of God.. they are here. And he reveals it by prayer. **Elisha knew** what to pray. **Not for the enemy to go away but that his servants eyes might be opened.** He was not to solve the problem but to reveal the reality. Does not matter how well qualified we are in spiritual development: reliance on forms of faith or on programmes of outreach, or on systems of management come to nothing. **Elisha** does not once refer to a text book. He **refers only to the Lord.** We are not to provide the answers and programs for one another; we are to pray that God opens the spiritual eyes of those around us, as well as our own. **Elisha** ministered to his servant. He **passed on his faith. And then the servant saw more.** The enemy was coming towards them, and still Elisha did not pray the enemy be turned back. He was not going to be defeated by the terrible things that surrounded them. He prayed that their eyes be blinded.

He sees that which is hidden: 18,19. ii) The ways of God. Not to be vengeful, but to show them who He is and show them the Kingdom **20 -23** Leads them to Samaria so **the King could see** the Hand of God at work and **he shows the ways of God** to the enemy. The priority is **not simply to survive** in battle **but to do the will of God** in battle. He did not kill them he fed them. God's way is mercy and feasting = PEACE



Witness: Questions to discuss

- 1.. Do you need a stronger confidence that Gods word to us can prevent catastrophes?
2. Do you have a child, a student, an employee, several employees, Do you have some one in your charge, in your care, Do you have some one who works for you? Do you know people who are full of fear? Do you have contact with people of any age who do not know God, or do not know him well. Is it possible that you are an Elisha to them? Do you know/see/hear some thing they don't?
3. If you think you aren't is that because you doubt your own spiritual experience of God? And so does that mean you are relying on your experience of God rather than on God himself?
4. Maybe we do not draw near to God because we fear what he will ask of us, maybe we need to see that our fears only prevent us from receiving more and more of what we need to live a life of confidence and freedom. Is that true for you?
5. What surrounds you, where is the battle, and what do you see?
6. We are not to solve problems: Yet our working life does that.. does this approach mark our spiritual health so that we need to solve the problems that surround us rather than turn completely to God ?
7. The greatest tool, weapon, comfort we have is prayer. How important it is that we pray ?