

Heart Matters – Faith that stands firm

2 Kings 6: 1 – 23 Elisha Nature and Nations

1. A building project begins! 1 - 7

- The impact of Elijah and Elisha – A desire to serve God
- The place where we meet with you is too small for us
- A working party forms
- A personal drama
- A borrowed axe is lost. Iron a valuable commodity
- A stick and a miracle
- Elijah has a heart for people and a heart for God

2. A national crisis 8 - 15

- The war with Aram continues
- Elisha has spiritual insight into the King of Aram's plans
- Who is the traitor – Elisha the prophet in Israel
- A war party is sent to Dothan to kill him
- 'What shall we do?'

3. Looking beyond the seen world 16 - 17

- Elisha knows God is protecting them
- God needs to open our eyes to the reality of the unseen world
- The army of king Aram cannot see them and advance

4. A miracle followed by mercy 18 – 23

- Elisha asks the Lord to strike the army with blindness
- Elisha leads them to Israel's capital Samaria
- Shall I kill them my Father?
- Give them a feast and send them back!

Digging Deeper

Read 2 Kings 6: 1 – 7

1. Do we expect the church in the UK to continue to decline in size and influence?
2. What do we learn from this series about the revival of God's people? What did it take for this change to take place?
3. How would you react to the problem of the lost axe head? How did Elisha? What might that say to us about how we exercise faith?
4. The miracle required the man to reach out and take the axe head as it floated. Why would Elisha do it this way?

Read 2 Kings 6: 8 – 15

1. There is a lot of comedy in this account of the King of Aram's attempt to attack Israel. Is this deliberate and what do we learn from this?
2. How did Elisha know that God was protecting him? Is this something only he as a prophet could see? What about us, are we aware of the unseen world around us?
3. Elisha prays that his servant's eyes would be open. Is this something we should be praying for one another?
4. How do we keep a Biblical balance between knowing there is an unseen world and seeing the unseen world everywhere?

Read 2 Kings 6: 16 – 23

1. The enemy still attacked Dothan and Elisha prays for a miracle. Is there any significance in asking for them to be blinded?
2. Elisha the primary reason for the attack leads them into Samaria. Israel's capital stronghold. What has happened in the Kings life that he asks Elisha what to do next?
3. What impact would Elisha's actions have had on the Arameans? Are acts of grace and mercy risky?