

PEACE THIEVES!

LESSON INTRODUCTION:

- This is a strange time that we are living in! There are so many things that we don't understand; so many things that are previously unknown; and so many things that we just don't know!
- And as we watch many of our doctors; and scientist; and political leaders, it can become obvious that even though they are doing everything they can, they really don't know this thing at all either!
- At times like this, it is very easy to see you see you exclamation and if we are not careful, the enemy can use this fear to steal our victory and our joy, and most importantly, our PEACE!

LESSON TEXT: 2 Kings 6:8-17 NLT.

“When the king of Aram was at war with Israel, he would confer with his officers and say, “We will mobilize our forces at such and such a place.” But immediately Elisha, the man of God, would warn the king of Israel, “Do not go near that place, for the Arameans are planning to mobilize their troops there.” So the king of Israel would send word to the place indicated by the man of God. Time and again Elisha warned the king, so that he would be on the alert there. The king of Aram became very upset over this. He called his officers together and demanded, “Which of you is the traitor? Who has been informing the king of Israel of my plans?” “It’s not us, my lord the king,” one of the officers replied. “Elisha, the prophet in Israel, tells the king of Israel even the words you speak in the privacy of your bedroom!” “Go and find out where he is,” the king commanded, “so I can send troops to seize him.” And the report came back: “Elisha is at Dothan.” So one night the king of Aram sent a great army with many chariots and horses to surround the city. When the servant of the man of God got up early the next morning and went outside, there were troops, horses, and chariots everywhere. “Oh, sir, what will we do now?” the young man cried to Elisha. “Don’t be afraid!” Elisha told him. “For there are more on our side than on theirs!” Then Elisha prayed, “O Lord, open his eyes and let him see!” The Lord opened the young man’s eyes, and when he looked up, he saw that the hillside around Elisha was filled with horses and chariots of fire.”

I. SPIRITUAL EYES VS. NATURAL EYES!

- a. If you are a Follower of Jesus, you have been given BOTH Natural Eyes, and Spiritual Eyes!

- i. If we are blessed with good sight, we can see the “NATURAL” world around us!
- ii. BUT,.....regardless is we are blessed with NATURAL eyes, if we are a Follower of Jesus,WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN SPIRITUAL EYES!
 - 1. To SEE the things that God is doing
 - 2. To SEE what the Holy Spirit is showing us
 - 3. To SEE past what is happening around us!
 - 4. To SEE realities beyond the Natural!
- b. “SPIRITUAL EYES” is eyesight that is attuned to the Holy Spirit and the Word of God!
- c. And the FAITH-ABILITY to spiritually see what the Holy Spirit is doing or trying to teach us!
 - i. It is SEEING in the NATURAL and understanding the SPIRITUAL reality behind it!
 - 1. In order to develop true spiritual insight, we must have a “PARADIGM SHIFT!”
 - a. This is where we LIVE in the NATURAL or PHYSICAL world, but we exist in, and relate to, much of life through the Kingdom of God!
 - b. We must realize and live by the fact that at any time, the Kingdom of Heaven can BREAK into this EARTHLY NATURAL realm!
 - i. The “NATURAL” can be changed by the “SUPERNATURAL!”
 - 1. The “NATURAL” order of things must give way to the “SPIRITUAL” manifestation of the Kingdom of God and His will!
 - 2. When this happens...THE DEAD ARE RAISED!
 - 3. When this happens...THE SICK ARE HEALED!
 - 4. When this happens...THE OPPRESSED ARE SET FREE!
 - 5. When this happens...PEOPLE ARE SAVED AND DELIVERED!

6. When this happens...BELIEVERS ARE FILLED WITH THE HOLY GHOST AND GIVEN SPIRITUAL GIFTS!

1. What that then means is...

c. Our battle is NOT against the.....

- i. Drunk and the drug addict.....but, the spirit of addiction!
- ii. Sexually immoral.....but, the spirit of lust!
- iii. Witches and cults.....but, the spirit of false religions!
- iv. Politicians.....but, the spirit of humanism!

II. OUR FOCUS HAS TO CHANGE!

- a. The ONLY way that peace can stay in our hearts, in the midst of what we are going through, like this pandemic; is to CHANGE WHAT WE ARE FOCUSING ON!
 - i. Like a camera that is focused on the “UP-CLOSE” but the “FAR-OFF” is out of focus!
 - 1. You CHANGE FOCUS to the “FAR-OFF” and allow the “UP-CLOSE” to be out of focus!
- b. This is what we refer to as a “**PARADIGM-SHIFT!**”
 - i. **A Paradigm-Shift is:** *“An important change that happens when the usual way of thinking about or doing something is replaced by a new and different way! It is seeing something from a new or different perspective!”*

III. LEAD, DON'T FOLLOW!

- a. The Church of Jesus Christ has NEVER been meant to “FOLLOW!”It has ALWAYS been meant toLEAD!