

The Iron Did Swim

TEXT: 2 Kings 6:1-7

INTRODUCTION:

- A. WHAT HAPPENED IN THIS OBSCURE STORY TO THESE PROPHETS?
1. Their number was too great for their dwelling(**vs. 1-2**).
 2. They worked together, knowing the value of teamwork(**vs. 2**).
 3. Their respect for their teacher. They wanted him to come(**vs. 3**).
 4. One's concern over an object that was his responsibility(**vs. 5**).
 5. God shows himself in a miracle(**vs. 6**).
 6. A man's faith put to the test by taking up the ax head(**vs. 7**).

- B. **Romans 15:4**. THERE IS APPLICATION WE CAN MAKE.

I. IMPORTANCE OF WORKING TOGETHER(Psa. 133:1).

- A. A VITAL ASPECT OF BIBLICAL UNITY.
1. Many members, one body, working together(**Rom 12:4-8**).
 2. Working for a common cause(**Phil. 1:27; Eph. 4:15-16**).
 3. Everyone was important(**Rom 12:3; 1 Cor. 12:14-16, 20-22**).
 4. If we want this church to grow, **ALL** must do their part.
- B. OTHER ASPECTS OF UNITY ARE IMPORTANT.
1. All must be done in love(**John 13:34-35; Eph. 4:1-3**).
 2. There must be agreement(**Eph. 4:4-6; Amos 3:3**).

II. THERE IS POWER IN FEW, EVEN IN ONE.

- A. ONE MAN THOUGHT TO ASK ELISHA. WHAT OF THE OTHERS?
- B. ONE MAN'S THOUGHTFULNESS MADE A DIFFERENCE.
1. **1 Samuel 17 (esp. 42-51)**.
 2. **Ez 22:23-31**. One man would have the difference in God's eyes.
- C. ONE PERSON CAN MAKE OR BREAK OUR WORK FOR THE LORD.
1. One person spreading gossip and lies, or
 2. One person helping hold up the hands of fellow Christians.
- E. WILL YOU BE A STUMBLING BLOCK OR A STEPPING STONE?

III. IS OUR MASTER OVER EVERYTHING WE DO AND SAY?

- A. ELISHA WAS RECOGNIZED AS THE MASTER(**vs. 3, 5**). DEPENDENCE.
- B. JESUS IS OUR MASTER OR "TEACHER"(**1 Pet. 3:15; Matt. 23:8, 10**).
- C. JESUS MUST BE OVER ALL WE DO(**Col. 3:17; 1 Pet. 4:11**).
- D. DO WE WANT HIM TO KNOW WHAT WE DO?(**Isa. 29:15-16**)
- E. WE WANT JESUS WITH US IN ALL OUR ENDEAVORS(**Matt. 18:20**)..

IV. DO WE HAVE A PROPER RESPECT FOR OTHERS?

- A. **2 Kings 6:5**. PANIC OVER ANOTHER MAN'S LOSS.
- B. SHOULDN'T WE HAVE AN URGENCY FOR OTHERS' SPIRITUAL WELFARE?
1. Urgency seen in the purpose of our work(**James 5:19**).
 2. Urgency in the behavior of the apostles(**Acts 14:3; 20:20, 26-27, 31**).
 3. Jesus(**John 9:4; Matt. 9:36-38**).
- C. HOW DO WE SHOW CONCERN FOR THE LOST?
1. A brother in sin(**Gal. 6:1-2; Ez 33:7-9**).
 2. A brother in the sin of error(**Matt. 15:13-14; Acts 18:24-26**).
 3. One outside of Christ(**Acts 5:42; Mark 16:15-16**).
 - a. Invite to services, Gospel meeting.
 - b. Bible Study, Correspondence course, tracts, personal discussions.
 - c. Good example(**Matt. 5:13-16**).
 - d. Hospitality and helpfulness.
 - e. Prayed for wisdom and success.
- D. THERE IS A LOT YOU CAN DO, IF YOU WILL DO IT.

CONCLUSION:

- A. **2 Kings 6:6**. THE AX HEAD WAS RESCUED BY GOD'S POWER.
- B. GOD'S POWER IS MANIFEST TODAY
1. In the gospel of Jesus(**Rom 1:16-17**).
 2. And in his servants who spread that gospel(**Phil. 2:12-13**).