

Where Did The Ax Fall?

2 Kings 6:1-7

May 15, 2022 Sunday Message Notes

Have you ever experienced the presence of God in your life? Would you say that you are experiencing it in the current season of your spiritual journey, or are you in the midst of a metaphorical plateau where you find yourself stagnant in your growth as a Christian?

In 2 Kings 6:1-7, the Israelites are in the middle of a task that would further God's Kingdom when they find themselves in experiencing some "technical difficulties." At this time, the religious climate was such that the Israelites were embracing the worship of other gods; Elisha had stepped up and stepped in as leader by pouring out his life into the school of the prophets. When it got to the point where they had outgrown their meeting place, the prophets decided to work together and cut down trees by the Jordan River in order to build a new place.

When they brought this idea to Elisha, one of the prophets suggested that he accompany them, and he agreed. This echoes Exodus 33:15-16, where Moses said, "If you don't personally go with us, don't make us leave this place. How will anyone know that you look favorably on me—on me and on your people—if you don't go with us? For your presence among us sets your people and me apart from all other people on the earth." The same way that the prophets wanted Elisha to be with them, Moses insisted that God be with him and the Israelites as they travelled to the Promised Land.

Do we put the same value in God's presence in our lives? Are we like Moses who refused to do anything without the presence of God, or do we treat it like a spare tire—nice to have on hand, but used only when we are at the end of our rope and have no other choice? If we see ourselves as the latter, perhaps it is because we have not fully experienced His presence in our lives.

Going back to the passage, in the middle of cutting down the trees, one of the prophets drops his axe head into the river, effectively halting his work. Where did your ax head fall? It's important to examine ourselves because we might be in a situation where we don't even realize that ours had fallen off, and that we are only pretending to be productive for the Kingdom of God when in fact, we are not effectively working for His glory.

The good news is that there is always room for a miracle. Even though the ax head had fallen into the river, they were able to retrieve it after Elisha threw a stick into the water. It does not make sense, but that is where faith comes in. In the same way, if we find ourselves in a spiritual drought, there is always hope when we lean on our faith in God. All we need to do is:

A - admit and acknowledge that without God we are nothing (John 15:5)

B - believe in our hearts that it is only Jesus who can save us (Acts 4:12)

C - confess our sins, for He is faithful and just to forgive us. (1 John 1:9)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

(You may use these as a guide during your Dgroup discussion.)

1. Have you experienced the presence of God in your life lately?
2. What are the things that can pull you away from the presence of God?
3. How can we keep experiencing the presence of God in our lives?