

Title: They That Be With Us Are More

Text: 2 Kings 6: 15-17

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**2 Kings 6: 13: And he** [the enemy king of Syria-Ben-hadad] **said, Go and spy where he is** [Elisa the man of God], **that I may send and fetch him.** [dead or alive] **And it was told** [the enemy king of Syria] **saying, Behold, he is in Dothan.**

Before this, Elisha was used of God to heal Benhadad's general, Naaman, of leprosy. But despite the good shown his general, because Elisha was confederate with the King of Israel, the enemy king of Syria wanted him dead.

Christ has come. Through Christ's obedience unto the death of the cross, God has healed his elect from our leprosy, by purging our sins and making us the righteousness of God in him. Now Christ our risen Redeemer is sending forth his gospel and calling his lost sheep to life in Christ, making them confederate with Christ our King.

Whenever God heals one of his elect children, making the believer confederate with Christ our King—while the believer and his brethren have great peace, joy and thankfulness to God, those whose hearts are enmity against God are enraged. Satan and all his army, Satan all those yet under the power of the prince of the air—this whole unregenerate world—hates God. Their enmity toward Christ our King is turned toward Christ's minister and the flock of God.

"The heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil," (Ecclesiastes 8:11)

**2 Kings 6: 14: Therefore sent** [the king of Syria] **thither horses, and chariots, and a great host: and they came by night, and compassed the city about.**

See in this great host all the enemies of God and his people camped around us continually. Oh, they are preparing for a loss. Fighting against God's saints is fighting against God. Yet, natural man is blind so natural man is operating in darkness--"**they came by night.**" This world—whether they know it or not—is doing the same thing with the same motive as the Pharisee's who came to the Lord Jesus when he walked this earth.

- The Pharisees **came** to be seen and followed by men, rather than point men to Christ.
- Therefore **they came** to entangle the Master in his words. **They came** to find something with which to accuse his disciples
- **They came** to malign Christ's character and the character of his disciples
- **They came** to undermine the gospel.
- **They came** seeking a reason to justify their rejection of Christ our King before men.
- In other words they worked in darkness—**they came by night.** Why?

John 3: 19: And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. 20: For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd.

1 John 1: 6: If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:

Brethren, this is God's everlasting covenant to you who are God's chosen and called:

1 Chronicles 16: 21: He suffered no man to do them wrong: yea, he reprov'd kings for their sakes, 22: *Saying*, Touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm.

Notice the place where this occurred is **Dothan**. Do-than means "two wells" or "double feast."

**Proposition:** What the enemy intends to be our harm, God turns into a double feast for his child, causing us to drink a double blessing from his wells of his salvation.

Believer, God uses even the railings of enemies to graciously teach his flock. Christ gives us a double feast—1) teaching us that our God will put down all our enemies and 2) teaching us Christ is our protector and full provision of grace, our exceeding great Reward.

**Title:** They That Be With Us

**Divisions:** 1) God teaches us the danger of natural sight; 2) He teaches us the value of spiritual sight; 3) He teaches us this spiritual sight is the gift of God.

## **I. THE LORD USES OUR ENEMIES AND OUR OBSTACLES TO TEACH US THE DANGER OF CARNAL SIGHT.**

**2 Kings 6: 15: And when the servant of the man of God [the servant of Elisha] was risen early, and gone forth, behold, an host compassed the city both with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! how shall we do?**

### **An Example of the Believer**

Every believer is like this young man. He was a true servant of God. The young man was used of God in service under Elisha. He arose early—cheerfully ready to do whatever needed to be done in the service of God. Every true believer is a servant of God, ready and willing to serve God in the cause of Christ.

### **Two Kinds of Sight**

But believers have two kinds of sight. We have the natural eye which sees only natural things—this eye feeds the old man of our flesh. And we have spiritual sight whereby we see Christ by faith—this sight feeds our new man.

Brethren, one thing we see with our natural eye—this only by the grace of God giving us true discernment—is that we have many enemies far too great for us to overcome. In fact, the believer is more fearful than unbelievers in this regard.

The grace of God has destroyed any notion of sufficiency in us. God's grace has made us as "a little child" conscious of our utter weakness. Grace has taught us that it is impossible for us to stand with Christ, stand for the gospel, to walk in the integrity of holiness, to serve God against so great a host of enemies by the natural strength of these bodies. We simply can't do it.

And what we see with our natural sight is not even the half of the enemies which surround us.

Ephesians 6: 12: For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places

But we see in this young man the danger of calculating with the natural eye. This is what happens every time we regard only the carnal sight of things. He became fearful. He cried, “Alas, my master! how shall we do?” Natural sight sees the danger, but not the deliverance.

Many times, our natural sight makes us fail to see the plenteous provisions God has made for us. We set our sights too much on the difficulties in the way and on those who oppose us. And Satan is subtle. He plays upon our fleshly weakness. His desire is to turn us to those things that make the way seem impossible to us.

But remember, the difficulties and the opposition are just opportunities for God to show us his greatness. The true enemy is not those we see with the natural eyes—the true enemy is our own unbelief. This young man was being taught, what every believer is being taught of God continually.

## II. THE VALUE OF SPIRITUAL SIGHT

**2 King 6: 16: And [Elisha] answered, Fear not: for they that *be* with us *are* more than they that *be* with them.**

Faith—true God-given sight—is so much more valuable than natural sight. Our natural sight grows dim with age but faith grows by God’s grace. We can lose our natural sight—but God sees to it that our spiritual union with Christ will never cease. Natural sight ends in darkness but faith shall end when we see Christ as he is. **Fear not: for they that *be* with us *are* more than they that *be* with them.**

### Faith Enables Believers to be Comforters

God-given sight—true faith—enables the believer to comfort our fearful brethren with the gospel. Elisha saw the same thing the young man saw. Elisha saw the hosts of Syria, their horses and chariots, all around. But Elisha saw what the young man did not see—“the evidence of things not seen.” So with calmness he was able to comfort his brother, with the reality of things: **16: And [Elisha] answered, Fear not: for they that *be* with us *are* more than they that *be* with them.**

### Faith Overcomes Our Fears

Brethren, what is it you see with the carnal eye that causes you fear and doubt? Is it that we are few in number? **Fear not: for they that *be* with us *are* more than they that *be* with them.** Is it the great hosts of obstacles that lay in our path or the great hosts of enemies around us? **Fear not: for they that *be* with us *are* more than they that *be* with them.”**

The realization God gives through faith which conquers our doubts and fear is this:

1 John 4: 4: Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

- Little children—ye are **of God**
- Chosen **of God** from eternity in Christ **unto salvation**—he can’t lose one
- Redeemed with the precious blood **of his Son**—not one can be separated from him
- Born **of God** the Holy Spirit—no enemy can take the Spirit of God from us—he is irresistible.

Ye are **of God**, little children, and **have** overcome them: because **greater is he** that is **in you**, than he that is in the world.

Our enemies are God's enemies. And God knows the thoughts and intents of His enemies. They are there to teach us to look beyond the enemies and obstacles--to Christ our Savior. With ease, God can bring our enemies to nothing. **Fear not: for they that *be* with us *are* more than they that *be* with them.**

**This is his church**—the body of believers Christ has assembled to bring glory to his holy name. As God has provided us all righteousness in the finished work of Christ Jesus our Head, as God has fitted us together—calling us from the four corners of this globe—north, south, east and west--so shall God by his grace make every provision for our security right here in this little corner of the world.

Ephesians 1: 23: Christ is the Head and his church is “his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.”

Ephesians 2: 19: Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; 20: And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner *stone*; 21: In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: 22 In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

Ephesians 4: 10: He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.)

Ephesians 5: 23:...Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.

Lift up the eyes above all events below to the Lord Himself.

Hebrews 12: 22:...ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, 23: To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, 24 And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than *that of* Abel.

How desperately brethren need brethren! For every brother taken with “fear” God has provided us a brother whom God has just strengthened to remind us “Fear not.”

Psalm 46: 1: God *is* our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. 2: Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; 3: *Though* the waters thereof roar *and* be troubled, *though* the mountains shake with the swelling thereof. Selah.

#### **IV. GOD TEACHES US and REMINDS US CONTINUALLY THAT THIS SPIRITUAL SIGHT IS THE GIFT OF GOD.**

**2 Kings 6: 17: And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see.**

God-given sight reminds us and enables us that we must ask God to give sight to those who need it—**Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see.**

Elisha prayed thus because God had already made Elisha to see. His prayer was not for the young man to do something because the young man could not do it for himself. Elisha prayed and asked God to open his eyes because Elisha knew only God can do so, Elisha had no power to give him sight. **Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see.**

## **Our Prayer for Believers**

My fear for the young believer going off to college is the same as it would in sending a baby just learning to walk out to the street to pick up the morning paper. You're a baby in Christ. You have little experience, little discretion, against the craftiness and subtlety of evil.

See how soon, how easily, this young man was tossed. "But preacher, the Lord will keep his child". Indeed, God will, but knowing that wouldn't make me throw them off the roof of this building. The world won't have you to take a few courses in college then go off into the work force. Ambition and pride are blinding.

"Lord, I pray thee, open the eyes of the young, that they may see"

- See sin is sin
- See evil is evil
- See a lie is a lie
- See rebellion is rebellion
- See that Christ and his gospel is more vital than anything else in this world

## **Our Prayer For Unbelievers**

This is not only our prayer for our brethren, but for those yet dead in trespasses and in sins. Are you yet arguing against the gospel of God? It is because you are not aware of your own blindness. You think you see.

- Self-wisdom is blindness.
- Self-strength is blindness
- Self-righteousness is blindness
- Self-made holiness is blindness
- Self-made freedom is blindness

It is not merely that man cannot come to Christ, but he *will not* come to Christ that he may have life; it is not merely that he cannot see the truth, but that he loves darkness rather than light, and does not want to see. Sinners are not willing to see. The natural will itself is in bondage. It takes is the divine will of God to overcome the wicked will of man. This blindness

- Blindness of heart
- Blindness of will
- Blindness of conscience
- Blindness of understanding
- Blindness so all things spiritual

You who yet blind may object to my gospel but you are as unqualified to express an opinion about something you have never seen as a blind man is to argue with you about the color of an object.

When the Pharisee's objected to Christ

John 9:41: Jesus said unto them, If ye were blind, ye should have no sin: but now ye say, We see; therefore your sin remaineth

Natural eyes are for natural objects only. Spiritual things are seen only by spiritual sight.

“Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” (John 3: 3)

But preacher why do you tell me this if I can't see? Because God says, “Prophecy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the LORD.” (Eze 37:4)

We cry, “Look unto Jesus, and live!” Through this gospel sinners look only when the Lord Jesus looks to you in life-giving power. When “Thou God seest me”--“Now mine eye seeth thee”! Then we see all men clearly!

**Illustration:** Rex Bartlet—Mark 8: 25: “After that he put *his* hands again upon his eyes, and made him look up: and he was restored, and saw every man clearly.

- We see clearly the first representative man Adam—by one man's disobedience death passed upon all men
- We see clearly the last representative man Christ—by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous
- We see clearly our natural man—in my flesh dwells no good thing(1 Corinthians 2:14) “The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”
- We see clearly our new man--“Christ in you, the hope of glory,” “created in righteousness and true holiness.” “his seed” that remaineth in you, and which can never again be lost, because he is born of God.”

“Since the world began was it not heard that any man opened the eyes of one that was born blind.” But with God all things are possible. Therefore, we expect God to do what only he can, so we ask him, “Lord, open their eyes, that they may see!”

### **God Opens the Eyes of His Children**

God shall open the eyes of every one of his blood-bought children and keep the eye of the believer open to behold his saving hand.

**2 Kings 6: 17:...And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.**

Brethren, has God made you to see Christ Jesus high and lifted up? “Has God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, shined in your heart, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.” This is our cry, “All I know is that whereas I was blind now I see.” How so?

Amazing grace how sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me  
I was once lost but no am found  
Was blind but now I see!

Do you see that God is greater than every enemy and obstacle in our way? He put them there that he might remove them so that we can see that God can do all things—that we might trust him.

**Illustration:** Paper sack in a raging fire.

Everything you see now shall melt away. But Christ says, “Because I live, ye shall live also.” Fear not—take courage, God is near thee and “if God be for us, who can be against us?” His angels are keeping watch over

us! Gird up the loins of your mind; be sober, and hope to the end. Be “steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord.” Commit yourself to the keeping of the hand which was pierced with nails for you.

Who can describe the riches of seeing the Lord’s goodness and mercy following us all the days of our life!

- Poverty! What poverty!
- Enemies! What enemies
- Obstacles! What obstacles!

Contrary to some I am not against prayer. In fact, this is my constant prayer, “LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see.” When God opens our eyes then shall we be assured,

Philippians 4: 13: I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

Then shall we “go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap *their* hands.” (Isa 55:12)

Amen!