

BLAST Video #8: "Even The Little Things"

(II Kings 6:1-7)

7.27.20

Have you guys ever lost something? I'm sure everybody has, but isn't that frustrating? I hate when I can't find something. And if it's something I was just using, or just saw, and then can't find it? That drives me nuts.

Now let's make it a bit worse. Have you ever lost something that belonged to somebody else? That makes you feel even lousier because, not only are you going crazy about losing something, but now you've lost something that's not even yours!

Well, if you've had those experiences, then I think you'll appreciate the story we're going to look at today. It comes from the OT book of II Kings, it features a prophet named Elisha, and it's called "Even The Little Things."

This all happened some 800-850 years before the time of Jesus. Now being a prophet meant that Elisha was God's spokesperson, sharing the word of God to those around him. Whether it was to the king or to a poor widow or anybody in between, Elisha told them what God wanted and needed them to hear.

Anyway, Elisha had a group of students that he spent time with. One day, they came up to him and said, "You know, the place where we meet with you is getting too small for all of us. Let's build a bigger place. What do you think?" And Elisha was agreeable; he basically told them, "Go ahead; do it." And one of the students asked if he would come with them, and Elisha agreed to go with them.

So, they headed to the Jordan River, where there were trees growing that they could cut down and use to build a newer, larger meeting place. Now of course, there were no such things as lumberyards or hardware stores in those days, so they had to cut the tree down themselves and, of course, bring their own tools, or borrow from somebody if they had no tools of their own.

Well, while one of these guys were cutting down trees, using an axe that he had borrowed, the worst thing possible happened. While he was chopping down the tree, the iron axe head came loose from the axe and fell ... right into the river. "Oh no!" cried the man as he saw the axe head disappear into the water. Elisha heard the cry, so he came over to see what was wrong. The young man looked at him with fear, telling him, "Sir, that axe head was borrowed."

Now this was a big deal. Iron tools were very, very rare in Israel at this time, so that made this axe very valuable, and expensive. The guy who lost it probably was making little if any money,

as he was spending his time with his fellow students and Elisha. This could mean that he might have to give up his studies, and maybe even hire himself out to the guy from whom he had borrowed the axe, basically becoming the man's servant until he had paid back whatever it would cost to replace the axe head he had just watched sink into the waters of the Jordan.

But instead of chewing him out for being so careless, or telling his student, "That's too bad; better luck next time," Elisha asked him, "Where did the axe head fall?" The student pointed out the place but what good would that do? The axe head wasn't there; that's just where it sank.

But Elisha, without saying another word, cut a stick and threw it onto the spot on the river where the student had pointed. And all of a sudden, something came floating to the service. The student's eyes opened wide in disbelief - it was the axe head, the iron axe head, floating, like it had no weight at all. He couldn't move, he was so surprised. I can almost hear Elisha laugh as he was standing beside this student, watching his reaction. Then he said, "Well just don't stand there; go and lift it out." And the student reached out and grabbed the floating axe head with his hand and took it.

This is such a great story. It's over 2,800 years old and we're still talking about it. But why is it so special? It's because of what it tells us about God. You know, I've actually heard people say, "I certainly pray to God about the "big stuff" but, the little things, I don't bother God with those. I'll take care of those things myself." Guys, that's so wrong! God wants us to come to Him about anything and everything. There is nothing too small or too unimportant. God wants us to bring everything to Him because, when it comes to God, everything about us matters to Him, and I mean everything: stuff at home, stuff we worry about, even stuff we've lost. We can tell God about anything! He wants us to talk to Him about anything that is going on in every moment of our lives. We can trust Him that much because He loves us that much.

When something is great, tell God about it. When something is not so great, tell God about it. He wants us to have the kind of relationship with Him where we are talking to Him all the time. Isn't that cool? God is so great - and so is the relationship He offers to each and every one of us. Guys, the best thing that can ever happen to your life is to have God in your life. That's what Jesus came to do - to offer us a relationship with God by washing away our sins. And when you ask Jesus to come into your life, that gives you a relationship with God - and the start of a new kind of life that will never end!