

SERMON OUTLINE

STUDIES IN THE LIFE AND TIMES OF ELISHA

'Elisha: the messenger of salvation' - 12

2 Kings 13 v10 - 25

Context - See - v10 - 11 & 1 Kings 12 v25 - 28. Key Point - These were the days (and had been for many, many years) of convenience religion. People chose a religion which allowed them to believe what they liked and to live as they liked.

Key Lesson - God is a faithful God! We see this faithfulness here in 2 ways:-

1. GOD'S FAITHFULNESS TO A DISOBEDIENT KING

Key Question to ask which will help us to understand what was happening here as Jehoash cried out "My father! My father! The chariots and horsemen of Israel" - was he speaking metaphorically about Elisha or literally about a real army? See - v7.

Key Point in being told that Jehoash cried out in this way - he was so near, and yet so far! He was so near to the God who could have sent a fiery army of chariots and horsemen. See - 6 v17.

Jehoash is Tested

That is, would he yet respond to the God who is graciously and mercifully faithful. Note - God promised! See - v17. Faith is all about taking God at His word - and acting on it in obedience. Did Jehoash do this? He seemed to at first - but then he gave up. See - v18 - 19. And this is what happened. See - v24 - 25.

Key Verse (Matt 9 v29) - "According to your faith will it be done to you." We don't give up because we have a faithful God who has promised to give us the victory!

2. GOD'S FAITHFULNESS TO A DISOBEDIENT PEOPLE

See - v20a. Key Question - With Elisha dead and buried was this the end for the church? Some may have thought so (and probably did so) - hence this miracle to comfort and encourage. It teaches us about...

A. GOD'S FAITHFULNESS - AND THE LIFE OF FAITH

See - Heb 11 v4

B. GOD'S FAITHFULNESS - AND THE WORD OF GOD

C. GOD'S FAITHFULNESS - AND THE COVENANT OF GRACE

See - v22 - 23. See also - Ezek 37 v1 - 14

D. GOD'S FAITHFULNESS - AND THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST