

Sermon Text – 2 Kings 6:8– Theme: In the midst of my troubles Lord help me to look to you. September 20, 2015 (Series: Encountering God)

As we begin our story today I would like you to think about a few questions as I tell the story:

- What did you like about the story?
- What did you learn about God in the story?
- What did you learn about mankind in the story?

**The Story:** There is a very interesting spiritual battle hidden away in 2Kings chapter 6. In the Bible we read of angels called powers and principalities that battle in the spiritual realm yet we only a few glimpses of this realm recorded in the Bible. Elisha was a prophet of God to the Northern Kingdom of Israel. A prophet means to bubble forth as from a fountain. A prophet was s spokesman from God who spoke in God’s name and authority.

*8When the king of Aram (or some bibles would say the King of Syria) was at war with Israel, he would confer with his officers and say, "We will mobilize our forces at such and such a place." 9 But immediately Elisha, the man of God, would warn the king of Israel, "Do not go near that place, for the Arameans are planning to mobilize their troops there." 10 So the king of Israel would send word to the place indicated by the man of God, warning the people there to be on their guard. This happened several times. 11 The king of Aram became very upset over this. He called in his officers and demanded, "Which of you is the traitor? Who has been informing the king of Israel of my plans?" 12 "It's not us, my lord," one of the officers replied. "Elisha, the prophet in Israel, tells the king of Israel even the words you speak in the privacy of your bedroom!" 13 The king commanded, "Go and find out where Elisha is, and we will send troops to seize him. "And the report came back: "Elisha is at Dothan." 14 So one night the king of Aram sent a great army with many chariots and horses to surround the city. 15 When the servant of the man of God got up early the next morning and went outside, there were troops,*

*horses, and chariots everywhere. "Ah, my lord, what will we do now?" he cried out to Elisha. 16 "Don't be afraid!" Elisha told him. "For there are more on our side than on theirs!" 17 Then Elisha prayed, "O LORD, open his eyes and let him see!" The LORD opened his servant's eyes, and when he looked up, he saw that the hillside around Elisha was filled with horses and chariots of fire. 18 As the Aramean army advanced toward them, Elisha prayed, "O LORD, please make them blind." And the LORD did as Elisha asked. 19 Then Elisha went out and told them, "You have come the wrong way! This isn't the right city! Follow me, and I will take you to the man you are looking for." And he led them to Samaria. 20 As soon as they had entered Samaria, Elisha prayed, "O LORD, now open their eyes and let them see." And the LORD did, and they discovered that they were in Samaria. 21 When the king of Israel saw them, he shouted to Elisha, "My father, should I kill them?" 22 "Of course not!" Elisha told him. "Do we kill prisoners of war? Give them food and drink and send them home again to their master." 23 So the king made a great feast for them and then sent them home to their king. After that, the Aramean raiders stayed away from the land of Israel.*

1. We are easily overwhelmed when we fail to look up to the Lord and instead look at what we have in our own hand. Why is this?  
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2. *Hebrews 12:2 Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.* What is this verse saying to you today?  
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3. Why is it so important to put on the full armor of God?  
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4. What is the Lord teaching you today and how can you implement what He has told you?

