



Sermon #2011-6-1d

THE JORDAN EXPERIENCE

II Kings 6:1-7

**Sermon Outline*

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A. The Place that is Particular

- 1. The Productivity that was lost**
- 2. The Passion that was lost**

B. The Problem that is Perplexing

- 1. The Calamity that is Horrendous**
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- 3. The Condition that is Helpless**

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II. THE LESSON THAT IS REVEALING

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III. THE LORD THAT IS READY

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- 1. The Steps to Recovery**
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B. The Cross that is Essential

- 1. The Means of the Miracle**
- 2. The Meaning of the Miracle**

C. The Condition that is Expedient

The miracle in our text is the 12th numerically in the ministry of the Prophet Elisha. The number 12 in Biblical numerology speaks of placing things in perfect order. Sometimes it is possible for things in our life to get out of order, especially in our spiritual life. As we encounter situations and storms in our life things can get out of order. The reality is that we can lose something's. The truth in this text will speak to us about putting things in order in our spiritual life. I trust the Holy Spirit will speak to us this morning as we glean from this text.

I. THE LOSS THAT IS REAL

A. The Place that is Particular

The place where the ax head was lost speaks to us this morning. It was lost in the Jordan River. The name 'Jordan' is from a Hebrew word that literally means that which descends or goes downward. I want us to notice what was lost in this 'Jordan experience'.

1. The Productivity that was lost

When the ax head descended into the depths of the Jordan, the productivity of this man was lost. He could not continue to be productive swinging a handle. *I am speaking to someone this morning that your 'Jordan experience' has left you feeling like you are swinging a handle without an axe head.*

2. The Passion that was lost

Not only did the man lose his ax head in this 'Jordan experience', he lost his passion. As the ax head ascended into the depths of the Jordan so did this man's spirit. Into the depths of the Jordan went this man's spirit. *I am speaking to someone this morning in this service that your 'Jordan experience' has caused your spirit to sink to the bottom.*

B. The Problem that is Perplexing

1. The Calamity that is Horrendous

The ax head fell into the Jordan where it was impossible to human retrieve it. This man was totally incapable of doing anything to rectify the problem.

2. The Cry that is Hopeless

"Alas, master!" The word 'alas' seems to denote that he regarded his loss as final and had no thought that it would be recovered. Even though he cries out to Elisha, he was not expecting a miracle. He was just sharing his plight.

3. The Condition that is Helpless

"Alas, master! For it was borrowed." The word for borrowed means 'begged'. The man had begged the ax head; because of his poverty he was unable to buy one. Because of his poverty he would not be able to buy another to replace the one that was lost.

****I am convinced this morning that I am speaking to some that is in the midst of a "Jordan Experience" in your life this morning. Your "Jordan Experience" has left you like this man. But there is hope and there is help this morning!***

C. The Picture that is Profitable

There are other texts in the Bible that deal with the Jordan. Often times in these texts the Jordan River pictured an obstacle that needed to be crossed in order for God's people to move forward. Crossing the Jordan always represented a...

1. Turning Point

2. A Changing of Worlds

II. THE LESSON THAT IS REVEALING

A. *The Application in the Text*

What does this text say to us this morning? What is the ax head? The ax head is the cutting edge of our life. It is the power of the Holy Spirit at work in our lives.

- All the education in the world will not be sufficient to replace it.
- All the natural ability in the world will not be sufficient to replace it.
- All the grit and intestinal fortitude in the world will not be sufficient to replace it.
- All the 'bowing up' in the world will not be able to replace it.

...It is that dynamic that makes a difference in the life of a Christian when they encounter the "Jordan Experiences" of life.

***O. S. Hawkins said...**

The cutting edge is the life of Christ made real in me through the Holy Spirit as I continually yield myself to him!

***The "Jordan Experiences" in life can cause us to lose that 'cutting edge'. Not lose in the sense that we lose the presence of the Holy Spirit in our life, but lose in the sense that we are not yielding and depending continually and constantly on the power of the Holy Spirit to be manifested in and through our life.**

***Hear me this morning...a "JORDAN EXPERIENCE" can shake the very foundation of our faith. You cannot get to the place in your Christian Life were you are immune from "JORDAN EXPERIENCES". We may be one call away, one conversation away from a "JORDAN EXPERIENCE". The "JORDAN EXPERIENCE" of...**

(1) Trials has the capability to harass us

(2) Trouble has the capability to hinder us

(3) Tragedies has the capability to harness us

***We can be going about our life, swinging and chopping along...and wham a trial, trouble, or tragedy comes along and there goes our ax head. We lose our cutting edge!**

B. *The Acknowledgement of a Truth*

The ax head was borrowed. It was not his. It belonged to another. And so it is with the cutting edge. We do not possess the power of God. THE POWER OF GOD POSSESSES US! This requires that we remain aware of our dependence upon the Lord. We must be constantly and continually yielded to the Lord to maintain that cutting edge!

*****This morning the Holy Spirit has already laid His hand on some in this service. You have had or are having a "Jordan Experience" in your life. You have lost your ax head...your cutting edge. Please open your heart and listen as I share the last though this morning in the message. God wants to help you get your ax head back this morning and cross this Jordan that holds you captive!**

III. THE LORD THAT IS READY

A. *The Concern that is Expressed*

1. *The Steps to Recovery*

This man did the right thing when he went to the Prophet Elisha and cried out. *That is the first thing you must do this morning...come to the Lord and cry out!* The man of God asked him a question...Where fell it? *The second thing you must do is return to where you lost it. It is not enough to admit that we have lost the cutting edge; we must return to the place we lost it.* The man showed Elisha the place where it fell.

2. The Savior who Responds

To others this incident might have been a small and trivial matter. But to the man that lost the ax head it was a major issue in his life. But to Elisha this was important. I want to remind you this morning that God is interested and cares about your Jordan Experiences this morning. Nothing in your life is too small or trivial, nor is nothing in your life too big or tremendous that God does not care.

*I Peter 5:7

Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

...The verb 'cares' is in the present continual tense. God is always and constantly concerned about us. Life is a series of ups and downs and mountains and valleys...life changes and is oftentimes unpredictable. But God's care and concern for us is steadfast and unfailing.

*Lamentations 3:21-23

This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope.

[22] It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.

[23] They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.

...The Greek text reads this way, *for to Him it is a care concerning you.* God not only cares for you as His children, but that the whole of our care which he wants us to cast on Him...is a PERSONAL CONCERN to HIM!

B. The Cross that is Essential

The text says that when they got to the place, that Elisha cut down a stick and cast it in the place where the ax head fell...and the iron did swim. A MIRACLE occurred. It was supernatural. The laws of gravity were defied by the power of God. The iron did swim!

1. The Means of the Miracle

Elisha cast into the waters of the Jordan a stick. In the Hebrew the word can mean a 'sapling' or even a 'tree'. It is rendered 'tree' 162 times in the Scriptures.

*Deuteronomy 21:23

His body shall not remain all night upon the tree, but thou shalt in any wise bury him that day; (for he that is hanged is accursed of God;) that thy land be not defiled, which the Lord thy God giveth thee for an inheritance.

*Galatians 3:13

Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:

2. The Meaning of the Miracle

*F. S. Webster said in the Biblical Illustrator...

Interpret as you like, the casting in of the wood. There is one power that always brings forfeited blessings within reach...it is the Cross of Calvary! The precious blood of Christ has brought within faith's reach every blessing that we need. Bring the cross to bear upon your lost peace and power, and at once it is within your reach.

...What seemed to be gone forever was now not only in sight...but it was also in reach... because a power greater than any human power is at work.

C. The Condition that is Expedient

...Therefore said he, Take it up to thee. And he put out his hand, and took it.

Elisha did not ask him to analyze the miracle, but to appropriate it. It was not the time to explain the miracle but it was time to exercise faith!

***This morning God has given us a word about our "Jordan Experiences".**

- 1. He knows the situation you are encountering.*
- 2. He has supplied through the cross our needs.*
- 3. WE MUST...*

- Acknowledge our Loss*
- Go back to the place where we lost it*
- Come back to the cross*
- By FAITH reach out and receive*

***CLOSING**

Many of you are familiar with the name John Newton. His story was miraculous. He was an English sea captain and transporter of slaves. Newton was a vile and wicked man. John Newton was wonderfully converted and became a prominent London Pastor. Newton was not only a great preacher but also a hymnist. He is best known for the hymn "Amazing Grace". He often wrote hymns that went along with his sermons. Newton preached on this text from II Kings 6, and wrote out the story found here in hymn form. The last verse of the hymn speaks to what the Lord is saying to us this morning...

*Not one concern of ours is small.
If we belong to Him;
To teach us this, the Lord of All,
Once made the iron to swim.*