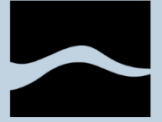


# SERMON NOTES

A STRANGE CURSE (2 KINGS 2:23–25)

**STRANGE STORIES, PECULIAR GLORIES**



**BIG IDEA:** God will not be mocked

# APPLICATION GUIDE

February 8, 2026

## DISCUSS

What is the significance of this bear story happening immediately after Elijah's departure and Elisha's commissioning? How does Elisha's first miracle (blessing cursed water) help understand his second miracle (cursing boys)?

Discuss the meaning and significance of the boy's insult. Why does this warrant a divine curse?

Read Leviticus 26:21–22; 2 Chronicles 36:16; Hosea 13:4–8; Ezekiel 5:17. How do these texts inform Elisha's curse of she-bears?

## APPLY

Where do you see mockery of God normalized or celebrated in our culture?

How does this story challenge our world's modern assumptions about authority and holiness?

Which of the four "profile of a scoffer" questions challenged you the most—and why?

In what ways does trusting God's justice free you to love enemies rather than "play the bear"? How does the cross keep us from responding to mockers with self-righteous anger? (Matt 5:43–45; 1 Peter 2:20–23; Rom 12:12–21)

How are you tempted to mock God? Are there ways you expect God's blessing while sowing disobedience? Do you live in hidden sin while giving the appearance of godliness?

## COMMIT

Ask one trusted Christian, "Is there anything in my life that doesn't align with God's Word?"—and commit to listening without defending yourself.