

2 Kings 6:1-7
“*Surface Tension*”

WELCOME -

AS YOU SETTLE IN PLEASE TURN TO 2 Kings 6...

LET'S PRAY -

INTRO -

(READ V. 1-7)

- A Miracle is an event that contradicts science
 - And we serve a God of Miracles!
 - Psalm 77:14 NLT
- So I've titled today's message: **“*Surface Tension*”**

SURFACE TENSION IS A NATURAL OCCURRENCE...

- And it is the force that lets small objects float on water,
 - faith is what breaks the laws of the natural with the power of God
 - And as a Christian God is the one who holds you up!
 - He doesn't make us sink or swim
 - Isaiah 41:10 NLT

THINK ABOUT THIS FOR A MOMENT

- Giant metal ships can float not because metal floats, it doesn't, but because of how they're shaped and what is inside of them
 - In other words, they float because they are balanced and built to displace what would otherwise drown them
 - Faith works in a similar way...

(READ V. 1-3)

IDEA 1 - Growing Pains is Proof of Progress

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HOW FITTING IS THIS PASSAGE FOR WHERE WE ARE AT AS A CHURCH

- There wasn't any more room and everyone felt cramped
 - It's a really good problem to have
 - It shows that he was making an impact
 - And with growth comes growing pains
 - What we see as pain God sees as progress, what we see as pressure, God calls it preparation for the next step

THAT BEING SAID HERE IS THE CAVEAT:

- Church growth should never be the focus of any pastor or spiritual leader
 - That was not Elisha's main calling or his vision

THERE IS ALSO A SPIRITUAL PRINCIPLE HERE:

- God often allows discomfort in your life to push you to expansion
 - Not just expansion of a building but expansion in your spiritual life and your heart.
 - Discomfort can become the driver for you to move to where God wants you to be!
 - But regardless of the type of growth, Growth always begins with recognition
 - You stunt growth when neglecting those areas

TAKE A LOOK AT VERSE 2

- Nobody waiting on someone else to build the new place
 - Every man did their part and it's because growth is a shared responsibility
 - With new growth came new obligations
 - God doesn't want you to just come to church and be a spectator
 - Be a player and involved!
 - Galatians 6:3-5 NLT

ONE MORE ENCOURAGEMENT I WANT TO GIVE YOU FROM THIS

- [Life of Elijah]

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- In chapter 19 Elijah lets us into some of the darkest times of his life
 - He got to this place because he felt ineffective and alone
 - 1 Kings 19:14 NKJV
- Elijah had the option to quit in chapter 19 ... but he didn't
 - Imagine if he had thrown in the towel and quit, this school would have existed
 - So here is the principle for us:
 - Don't give up when victory is on the horizon!

IDEA 2 - Borrowed Blessings

(READ V. 4-5)

DON'T YOU HATE WHEN YOU LOSE THINGS

- There was a survey conducted of the most commonly lost items and at the top of the list were
 1. Car Keys
 2. Phone
 3. TV Remote

THE YOUNG PROPHET IN OUR STORY WAS CONCERNED FOR GOOD REASON

- The Jewish people didn't have hardware stores like we do today, so iron tools were a precious commodity and scarce
 - This becomes a picture and a type for us of ministry and service
 - Now capture this idea with me...
 - Everything that we have, our gifts, our talents, our ministry, and our influence is on loan from God.
 - 1 Cor 4:7 NLT

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SO WE HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO GOD TO KEEP OUR TOOLS SHARP

- “Return something in better condition than when you got it”
 - The Ax wasn't purchased loose and dull but over time, use and inattention it became those things
 - Tools need constant upkeep
 - It's not like you can't do the job with a dull ax
 - Ecclesiastes 10:10 NLT
 - So the greater idea here is a loss of effectiveness

THE PROPHET WAS WORKING HARD AND SUDDENLY LOST HIS EFFECTIVENESS

- Spiritually we can be working hard serving the Lord but lose our edge, that is our passion, or joy, our spiritual sharpness
 - It's important to acknowledge when something valuable has slipped away
 - If he just continued to chop down trees without the axhead, just hitting the tree with a wooden handle nothing would happen other than him getting frustrated with the lack of progress and giving up
 - Let me clarify something... Losing your edge does not mean that you are a bad christian
 - It means that you are a human
 - Pause and acknowledge what's missing in your life

HERE IS HOW YOU DO THAT...

- You bring your problems to God

BUT THE MANS FIRST REACTION WAS TO TELL ELISHA AND ASK FOR HELP

- Without that I wonder if he would have missed out on experiencing the miracle God was about to do.
 - And so with us, how many of God's blessings do we miss out on

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IDEA 3 - Heat Rises

(READ V. 6-7)

ELISHA DIDN'T PERFORM THE MIRACLE UNTIL THE MAN SHOWED HIM WHERE HE LOST IT

- The question Elisha asked was ‘Where did it fall?’
 - Jesus told the church in Ephesus that they left their first love
 - And he told them to remember where you departed and repent, go back there!
 - If you feel more distant from God than you did in days prior I promise you that the Lord is not the one who moved

WITH THIS MIRACLE GOD SUPERNATURALLY BREAKS THE NATURAL LAW OF BOUYANCE

- Where a piece of Iron which is much more dense than water floats on the surface of the water
 - This was an example of supernatural intervention
 - The temperature of an object can affect whether or not it will sink or float
 - [Ice in water cup]
 - [Hot Air Balloon]

AS A CHRISTIAN YOUR SPIRITUAL TEMPERATURE WILL DETERMINE IF YOU RISE OR FALL

- God wants you to be on fire for him so that you can experience new heights and new blessings
 - Jesus would even tell the church in laodicea that they lost their fire
 - Rev 3:15-16 NLT

NOTICE WHAT ELISHA DOES NOW

- Verse 6 tells us...
 - The wood becomes a picture of the cross for us

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- That when God’s power was introduced to the situation He was able to bring the impossible back to the surface
 - Exodus 15:22-25 NKJV

- When we take the problems to Jesus he takes the bitterness out of our circumstances
 - He is able to make it sweet
 - And so for our study, when we lose our cutting edge he has the power to restore us and make us effective once more!

FINALLY THE PROPHET TOLD THE MAN TO REACH DOWN AND PICK UP THE FLOATING AX HEAD

- Why did he stop at just floating on the water?
 - Because God can do what only God can do but there are some things that we can do also.
 - The man had to take a step into the water to retrieve the axhead
 - God wanted the man to reach out and claim the ax thus he would have personally participated in the miracle

CALL WORSHIP UP

APPLICATION

PRAY