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**2 Kings 6:15-17**

*Fruitfulness on the Frontline: The Journey On*

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**Website:** 2 Kings 6:8-23 is the story of God's deliverance of the people of northern Israel, not through a smart king or powerful military force, but by God sending his heavenly army to protect his people. The mission God gave the people of Israel was to trust him in the face of impossible odds. That's our mission too, to trust God as we step out on our frontlines. As we focus on verses 15 through 17 and our sermon series, *Fruitfulness on the Frontline*, we ask how it is we can accomplish this intimidating task of reaching the people all around us with the love of Jesus. It's so easy to doubt, to not believe, to be afraid. But Jesus' message to us is that of Elisha's to his servant. Don't be afraid! God's army is with us. Let's pray, like Elisha, that God would open our eyes to his activity all around us. Listen to the sermon to learn more.

Please enjoy the two-minute video, [The Missional Church... Simple](#) for a great companion video to this series' concluding sermon.

Introduction: **(S1)**

1. Today is our closing message in our *Fruitfulness on the Frontline* sermon series.
2. **(S2)** In this series we learned, “Your **Frontline** is the place where you spend the majority of your time outside the church, where you are in contact with non-Christians.” (*Life on the Frontline*, lead bk., pg. 8)
3. We learned how God calls Christians to see their frontlines as places God wants to use them.
4. We use our everyday, normal lives, for Jesus as we: **(S3)**
  - M1) **Model Godly Character** | Galatians 5:19-26
  - M2) **Make Good Work** | Colossians 3:22-4:1
  - M3) **Minister Grace and Love** | Luke 10:25-37
  - M4) **Mold Culture** | Colossians 3:1-14
  - M5) (are a) **Mouthpiece for Truth and Justice** | Ezekiel 2:1-3:15
  - M6) (and are a) **Messenger of the Gospel** | 1 Peter 3:15-16
5. There’s lots of different ways to share the love of Jesus with those around us.
6. God places us on our frontlines but that doesn’t make it easy to serve him there.
  - a. It would be much easier to keep your faith separate from your everyday life (sacred vs. secular).
  - b. It’s hard to believe God can use you to reach your neighbors, coworkers, and friends.
  - c. In these moments, we need a vision of God and what he can do.

- A. In 2nd Kings 6:8-23, a servant of the Lord also needs a vision of God.
  - a. The king of Aram (Aramaic), the Syrians, has come against Northern Israel to make war.
  - b. This king is mad because the prophet Elisha has warned the king of Israel of his plans several times.
  - c. He sends his “horses and chariots and a strong force” to capture Elisha in the city of Dothan. (6:14)
  - d. They come by night, surround the city, and when the servant of Elisha wakes up, he sees them.
  - e. He’s overcome with fear because it seems like they face defeat and death.

I. The mission seems impossible. (2 Kings 6:15) **(S4)**

- A. God asked Israel to trust him and he asks us that too.
  1. Israel’s mission was to obey God as a foreign king's army camps outside their walls. (1 Kg. 20:1)
  2. The king, likely Ben Hadad II, at one time had 20k foot soldiers, 1200 chariots, and 1200 calvary.
  3. This king has attacked Samaria (Israel's capital) before and now he’s threatening them.
  4. The idea that they could survive this seems impossible; God gave them an impossible mission.
  5. Our mission as a church is “To make, mature, and multiply followers of Jesus”.
  6. Taking that mission on as your own on your frontline feels impossible.
  7. Both missions are ultimately the same, a call to trust God everyday.

(How does Elisha respond to his servant’s fears?)

II. Fear not! God’s army is with us. (2 Kings 6:16) **(S5)**

- A. Fear not! **(S6)**
  1. One of my Pastors from my Colorado days shared the following acronym.
  2. F.E.A.R. = False, Expectations, Appearing, Real (it’s always stuck with me).
  3. The prophet Elisha says the same thing, “Don’t be afraid!” Then he explains why...

B. God’s army is with us. **(S7)**

1. In the Old Testament, God is called the “Lord of hosts.”
2. **1 Samuel 4:4a** So the people sent to Shilo and brought from there the ark of the covenant of the Lord of hosts, who is enthroned on the cherubim... (ESV)
3. The Hebrew word for hosts is *sabaoth*, which means “armies”—heaven’s armies.
4. This army is greater than 20k foot soldiers, 1200 chariots, and 1200 cavalry.
5. In Isaiah 37:6a, it says, “Then the angel o the Lord went out and put to death a hundred and eighty-five thousand in the Assyrian camp...” (NIV®) \*Potential reference to God himself.
6. When God sends his armies, he sends his presence and power to protect his people.

(Fear not! God’s army is with us.)

(We can’t assume that we’re surrounded by thousands of angels.)

(But we can assume that if God calls us to a task, he’ll empower and protect us.)

(What we need then is to believe God can work through us, which leads me to a *prayer*.)

### III. God, open our eyes to see what you can do. (2 Kings 6:18) **(S8)**

#### A. In response to his servant’s fear, Elisha prays.

1. Elisha doesn’t count his soldiers, measure the wall, call the king of Israel, or flee.
2. Instead, he prays, asking God to open his servants eyes to see what’s really going on.

#### B. If you want to get over your frontline fear, try prayer.

1. Pray for God to take away your fear and to give you the courage to listen and obey.
2. Then just following the Holy Spirit’s leading as you live your everyday life.
3. As a church, we need to be praying for each other’s frontlines. Several *Prayer Tools*: **(S9-12)**
  - a) **Frontline Stories** - Helping this become a part of our culture going forward.
  - b) **Prayer Network** - Email Karyn frontline prayer requests: [prayer@cornerstonewestford.com](mailto:prayer@cornerstonewestford.com).
  - c) **Intercessory Prayers** - As a church, our worship leaders lead us in praying for frontlines.
  - d) **Top Ten Most Wanted** - Create a list of ten people on your frontline you can pray for.
4. Through prayer, God can open our eyes to see what he’s already doing around us.

#### C. When I worked in McLean VA just out of college, I tried prayer and fasting for the first time.

1. My coworker's mom was sick; so next time I saw her I felt prompted to ask, "How's your mom?"
2. Her face melted and she started to cry, she said "She's not well. She could go any day."
3. I thought maybe I should pray for her, so I asked, "What's her name?"
4. My coworker said her name and then added, "Thank you for praying for her."
5. Then she said, "I'm spiritual and I can tell you're spiritual too. You asked for my mother's name, so I knew you would pray for her."
6. God was already working in her life and heart and I had no idea (follow up?).
7. Prayer opens us up to see what God is already doing.

#### D. God answers Elisha’s prayer, opening his servants eyes.

1. The ESV says “the *mountain* was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.”
2. He saw angels not just on hills, but climbing up into the sky like a mountain of fire.
3. We’re supposed to remember v. 15’s when Ben-Hadad’s horses and chariots surrounded the city.
4. They dim in comparison to the host of heaven, thousands of angels, surrounding Elisha.
5. Notice how Elisha defeats the enemy, by blinding them, they can't see God's power.

(Would you rather be a fearful servant who sees God or a blind man who doesn't understand?)  
(Can you see that God can change your frontline or are you blind to his activity?)  
(Even if you're blind, there's hope for you, pray *God, open my eyes to see what you can do.*)  
(Even in prayer, it's hard to believe, which is why we need a more specific prayer.)

E. Jesus, give us resurrection eyes! **(S13)**

1. The servant of the Lord was in a situation surrounded by death.
2. If this didn't go well, he was going to die, and so would Elisha and his people.
3. We also face death; on our frontlines we face spiritual death everyday.
4. Without Jesus, those around us are lost, they're dead in their transgressions and sins. (Eph 2:1)
5. It's hard to believe they will experience spiritual resurrection, but they can!
6. Next week we're starting a Christmas series, *Baby Jesus Foretold*, but here's a taste of it.
7. Jesus was born to rescue the spiritually dead, and just like Elisha, he brought a heavenly army.
8. In Luke 2, an angel appears to shepherds outside of Bethlehem to tell them the savior is born.

**(S14) Luke 2:13-14** Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." (NIV®)

9. Jesus brought his heavenly army to battle sin and death, but it cost him his life on the cross.
10. Three days later he rose again and now shares that resurrection life with any who trust him.
11. If Jesus can resurrect you, giving you new life, he can resurrect your neighbor!
12. Notice that just like Elisha gave his servant sight, so Jesus has to open our eyes.
13. That's why we pray... **Jesus, give us resurrection eyes!**

(Give us resurrection eyes so that we serve you full of hope and faith.)

(I hope that this series has challenged you to use your everyday for Jesus.)

Conclusion: **(S15+)**

1. I want to close by showing you some pictures of our Frontline missionaries on their frontlines.
2. **Jennie** gives chair massages at a variety of companies as if unto the Lord Jesus.
3. **Anthony** is a Senior Engineer at a company near Hanscom that serves the military.
4. **Amanda** is the happy owner of a fiber company and has 3,587+ Instagram followers.
5. **John Ralls** is an Engineer for a telecom company here in Westford.
6. **Monica** teaches Bible, Theater, and Cheer at Bradford Christian Academy in Haverhill.
7. **Jonathan**; Have you heard I do Crossfit? I try to bless my gym and neighborhood w/ Jesus' love.
8. **Trisha** walks her dog Cisco in her neighborhood and stops to talk with neighbors.
9. **Chris** works with an analog company in Wilmington, solving really difficult problems.
10. **Aaron** manages software testers in Shanghai and works with developers across the globe.
  - a. Bonus points for having *Fruitfulness on the Frontline* on his desk, and a picture of his wedding.
11. **Terry** is working on his doctorate at Harvard's ANE studies school.
12. **Rebecca** mentors and teaches youth in Lawrence.
13. I want to show you one more picture of our frontline missionaries... All of you!
14. I pray that Jesus will give you fresh eyes for your frontlines.
15. **Jesus, give us resurrection eyes!**

Preview: Come back next week for our new series, *Baby Jesus Foretold*.

**Psalm 80:19** Restore us, O Lord God of hosts! Let your face shine, that we may be saved! (NIV®)