



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Discovery Digs Series, Lesson 9

Lesson Title: An Army of Fiery Chariots

Take Home Point: See the main thing – God's power and forgiveness.

Warm-Up:

You have heard the phrase “seeing is believing”? In the movie “The Santa Clause,” the main character unwittingly takes on the role of Santa Claus by putting on the red suit and then is carried to the North Pole by reindeer pulling a sleigh. At the North Pole, he sees many things that he had heard about and believed in as a child, but now as an adult is unconvinced they are real. In a conversation with one of the elves, he says, “I see it, but I don't believe it.” The elf replies with a smile, “That's the trouble with grownups. Seeing isn't believing. Believing is seeing.” I doubt the screen writer was trying to communicate a spiritual truth, but he did. The same truth that Elisha was teaching his servant so many years ago. Take a look at Hebrews 11:1 for confirmation.

Read: 2 Kings 6:8-23; Ephesians 1:18-19

Observation (What happened?):

How did the king of Israel stop the Arameans from raiding in Israel?

What three things did Paul pray we would see with the eyes of our heart?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

Why did Elisha lead the blind soldiers to the king of Israel?

What do you think was the purpose of the army of fiery chariots?

Insight:

It appeared that Elisha and his servant faced an impossible situation. The servant's reaction was fear. He did not cry out to the Lord, “Rescue us!” Instead he cried, “What shall we do?” But Elisha knew that God was there in power and had a plan far beyond human vision. His expectant faith allowed him to turn immediately to the Lord. It's not likely his servant thought God would demonstrate his power as he did. But notice this is not the only “impossible” rescue in this Bible account. After the Aramean soldiers have their sight restored in the city of Samaria, they also are rescued by God's great mercy and forgiveness. Forgiveness far beyond the understanding of Israel's king, and I suspect beyond our understanding, too. Both times, his means of rescue was unexpected, even “impossible.” For us, we are to demonstrate faith just as Elisha did – believing so we can see God's power, trusting that he will deliver. The lesson is to not limit God – expect him to rescue and show his perfect wisdom, strength, and forgiveness in his own way and time. He can and will do it.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

Name one time in the past year that God has opened your eyes to his power on your behalf.

Who do you need to forgive instead of harbor anger against? How can you do it?

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