



**Get Your Axe
Together!
2 Kings 6:1-7**




Observations

- This story points out God's continual presence in our lives
- In the "Sermon on the Mount," Jesus emphasizes that when a single bird needs food, God is aware. Are we not more important than its nourishment?
- Jesus, having suffered being tempted, is able to succor them that are tempted

"For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted." Hebrews 2:18



Observations

- In the Bible, the religious leaders appeared as representatives of the Lord
 - That leader's failure would be viewed as a failure of God
 - This doesn't mean he never got sick
 - This doesn't mean that he always had an abundance of everything
 - It means that he realized that God was in charge of everything he ever had or would have (health, social standing, financial security)
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Philippians 4:11-13

“Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content; I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and In all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

**Church Leaders: Members are
Watching How YOU Handle Life!**

**(Dating, Marriage, Parenting, Death,
Sickness, Stress)**



Observations

- In this episode, the place where the company of prophets assembled with Elisha was too small of a facility
- It apparently had flourished under Elisha's leadership
- Some of the prophets had married and raised families, as evidenced by one of the widows who had been left destitute (chapter 4 verse 1)

Observations

- ▶ So the suggestion was made, and approved of by Elisha, that each man would go to the Jordan River and, *“take a beam (log) from there,”* and *“make there a place”* where they might live
- ▶ This church could be more comprehensive and powerful if everyone participated in their share of responsibility for it.
- ▶ Notice that work without Elisha by their side while working would be more difficult. *“Be content, I pray thee, and go with thy servants.”* verse 3
“If thy presence go not with me, carry us not up hence.” Moses’ words in Exodus 33:15

Observations: The Making of an Axe!

- ▶ The handle was split at the place where the axe head was put and tied down with leather, which was then soaked in water, causing the leather to shrink and tighten it down
- ▶ The more it was used, the looser it would get, making it common for axe heads to become loose and fly off (Deuteronomy 19:5-6)





One of the more difficult lessons in a Christian's work, is **HOW TO AIM OUR BLOWS**—the skill with which we use the weapon

It's possible that our zeal can outrun our discretion, striking with strength rather than love, and lose our axe-head rather than making a positive impact on the timber

We must *“speak the truth in love”*
Ephesians 4:15

Observations



- It is the iron (axe) head and not the wooden handle of the axe that does the work—not our position, learning, eloquence or influence which makes up the handle by which the axe is used
- The religious world is full of people who use their handle but have long lost the head (iron)
- Don't get so enamored with your handle, that you forget the supreme significance of the axe head (Matthew 7:21-23)
- Using the axe properly requires study, and prayer; 2 Timothy 2:15



Observations

- ▶ Sure enough, as one of the brothers was cutting down a tree, the axe head flew off of the handle and fell in the water
- ▶ The man cried out in distress and in his moment of loss, he says, “*it was borrowed.*”
- ▶ This man’s sudden affliction revealed that he was a truthful man. When sudden distress surprises us, what does it reveal?



Observation



- ▶ There is no attempt by the narrator to explain “how” this event took place (whether there was some upward push of a current of water that caused the iron axe head to be buoyed)
- ▶ All he says to us is that Elisha cut a stick and threw it in where the axe head went under, and “*the iron did swim.*”
- ▶ If you believe the rationality of the scriptures, that there is a higher power than our mere existence, then you have no issue with the event
- ▶ The “*how*” of a lot of things occurs in our lives every day that we can’t explain, but observe (Sunrises and Sunsets for example)



**A Black Cow
Eats Green
Grass To Give
White Milk!**





Romans 8:28

“And we know that all things work together for good (even those events that I cannot explain, can be overruled, by a higher power) to those who love God to those who are called according to His purpose.”

- **The bottom line is that GOD CAN DO WHAT HE WANTS TO DO TO ACCOMPLISH HIS PURPOSES**
- **I don't see blood in baptismal water to wash a person's sins away.**
- **I JUST BELIEVE, OBEY, AND TRUST GOD!**
Philippians 4:6-8



The Plan Of Salvation

Hear the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Believe the Gospel

John 8:24

Repent of Sins

Acts 17:30

Confess Christ

Acts 8:37

Be Baptized

Acts 8:38