

## 2 Kings 6:8-23 - Fixing a Feast for your Enemies

Intro - I believe the Bible. It faithfully records God's word & will - it is holy, true, good, inerrant... and *varied* in the ways it communicates the truth. Contains poetry, parable, dictation/doctrine, vision, narrative... The power of "story" – a faithful rendering of how God worked in history and people's lives. *Story* has an imbedded application woven within the drama. This provides for the hearers/readers the opportunity to place themselves in the story and imagine how they would handle the situation. Plus, with the story comes the "moral of the story". Our text is a great story with a great, but difficult, lesson. The moral a today's story is *being kind to your enemy*. It is a story about fixing a feast for your enemy.

Bedlam yesterday / Thanksgiving this week (family feud) / divided nation politically Storytelling is not my strong suit but gonna give it whirl because *fixing a feast for your enemy* is a fitting story for today

- To understand any story you have to take in the background. Staging/ setting/context important
  - The context of 2 Kings 6 is 2 Kings 5 ☺ [A CONTEXT OF KINDNESS](#)
- The story of the commander of the army of Aram/Syria (2 Kings 5:1) Naaman - he had leprosy
  - He had taken a Jewish girl as a slave ( captured after victorious battle – 5:2)
  - She was kind to her captor and said her master could be healed by the prophet in Israel
    - You know the story – King of Syria sent Naaman with letter..... (Luke 4:27)
  - Jewish slave girl and Elisha were kind to the commander of the army of their enemies
- ACT 2 (same players as ACT 1) 2 Kings 6:8 The King of Aram (Syria) was at war with Israel
  - The one who sent Naaman to Israel to get healed is now sending armies to Israel for war
    - Israel's kindness was repaid with war Prov. 17:13
- War wasn't going well (Israel had their play book/stealing signs/ knew what was coming)
  - The King of Aram was furious because the King of Israel was privy to all his movements
    - He accuses his generals of treason - 6:11 (Benedict Arnold)
    - One officer knew it must be Elisha (6:12) I wonder which officer? Hmmm?
- The King of Syria wanted to know where Elisha lived
  - Naaman knew exactly where Elisha lived - he had just recently been there - (twice)
  - The answer came quick (6:13) "He is in Dothan" Backwater frontier town
  - "two wells" that is where Joseph's brothers threw him into a well – Gen. 37:17
- 6:14-15
  - The king sends an army to Dothan - with chariots and horses - pretty big fighting force
    - Army was big enough to surround the city
  - Elisha's servant gets up early in the morning and freaks out when he sees the army
  - The commander of army was recently there to be healed, now entire army for harm
    - Elisha's kindness was repaid with cruelty
- Faith is not afraid 6:16
  - People of faith want others to see what they see
  - Elisha prays that his servant's eyes would be open - there is an unseen world – 6:17

- The enemy army makes their advance 6:18a
  - Elisha prays (good response) prays that God would blind them
    - Prayed that his servants eyes be open and enemies eyes blinded (Sodom)
- In any war there is some calculated deception and trickery
  - Elisha said he would lead them to the right place to meet the man 6:19
  - Elisha was the pied piper leading the enemies army....to SAMARIA (the capitol)
- We are not as familiar with geography of Israel as with Oklahoma (slide of maps)
  - Dothan was 12 miles N/NE of Samaria same as Frontier City to OKC
    - March them down 1-35 for 4-5 hrs
  - Damascus 100 miles north of Samaria (OKC to Stillwater) had a detachment in Guthrie went at night to Frontier City – Elisha led to OKC (Jerusalem – Pauls Valley)
- Elisha prays again after trip to Samaria 6:20
  - With eyes open the army realizes they are in the capitol city (surrounded)
    - The perfect capture of one's enemy. Checkmate!
- The King of Israel was thrilled 6:21 Should I kill them, should I kill them?
  - The king respectfully asked twice but submitted himself to the Prophet
- 6:22
  - Don't kill them (that would even violate rules for war)– FEED THEM
- 6:23 the king of Israel went above and beyond - prepared a great feast and sent them away
  - The Army of Aram stopped raiding the land (for a time)
  - "the most glorious victory over an enemy is to turn him into a friend" M. Henry
- Did it work in the long run? 6:24-25a starts ACT 3 (same players) sneak peek
  - The army they fed comes back to Samaria and causes a great famine
    - Slave girl still slave. King who gave feast got a famine (frustrated?)
    - Kindness is often repaid with cruelty Ps. 109:4-5
  - **WE ARE TO LOVE OUR ENEMIES NOT BECAUSE IT WORKS BUT BECAUSE IT IS RIGHT!**
  - Love of enemy is Biblical law – OT & NT Prov. 25:21-22 Ex. 23:4-5
    - Matt.5:44 Rom. 12:14,17,21 1 Thess. 5:15 1 Peter 3:9
- We are to follow the example of our kind God (overlooked attribute) ....His daily example
  - Matt. 5:44-48 God daily feeds His enemies Ps. 136:25 Ps. 145:15-16
    - in return for His kindness God mostly gets blasphemy/enmity/unbelief
- Application
  - How can you fix a feast for your enemy? Apply the moral – live in the story
    - I don't know your situation but I am sure there is one that this story can apply
  - Will there be an enemy at your thanksgiving meal?
  - BLM group preparing a feast for ALM
  - Trump supporter giving a gift to a political enemy
  - Sooners and Cowboys fellowshiping together
- The invitation is an admonition
  - Who will love their enemies this week? Any takers?
  - Fix a feast for your enemy – not because it will work but because it is right