

## Sunday Evening Message

February 2, 2025

“Open Our Eyes”

Series – 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings – The Ministries of Elijah and Elisha

Text – 2 Kings 6

Congregational Reading – 2 Kings 6:15 - 17

### Introduction

**Illustration (Read before prayer)** - For 51 years Bob Edens was blind. He couldn't see a thing. His world was a black hall of sounds and smells. He felt his way through five decades of darkness. And then, he could see. A skilled surgeon performed a complicated operation, and, for the first time, Bob Edens had sight. He found it overwhelming. "I never would have dreamed that yellow is so...yellow," he exclaimed. "I don't have the words. I am amazed by yellow. But red is my favorite color. I just can't believe red. I can see the shape of the moon and I like nothing better than seeing a jet plane flying across the sky leaving a vapor trail. And, of course, sunrises and sunsets. And at night I look at the stars in the sky and the flashing light. You could never know how wonderful everything is."

This man was physically blind but was given the ability to see.

This message is about blindness.

Blindness can be caused by a lack of light – Ill – touch tunnel

Blindness can be partial – blind spot – Ill – almost hit by a policeman

Blindness can be caused by an internal problem.

Illustrate –

There are things in this world that we cannot see. (ill – behind the walls or inside of the closet; blind spot in the road)

There are things about me that you cannot see.

There are things about me that I cannot see.

There are things about you that I cannot see.

In today's message, we are going to examine a different kind of blindness – spiritual blindness - the inability of God's people to see with spiritual eyes the world around them.

**Pray for the message here.**

Before we get into the main discussion of this chapter, let's take a quick look at the interesting story found in 2 Kings 6:1 – 7.

This passage teaches us that God cares for even the small details of our life. He is not only the God of the big things, but also the God of the little as well.

The main passage that we will be dealing with today is found in vs. 8 – 23.

### I. A Perplexing Problem for the Syrians (vs. 8 – 12)

The king was sure that there was a spy within his camp that was reporting to the king of Israel. But his problem wasn't a plant within his cabinet, it was prophet named Elisha.

### II. A Perception Problem with the Sight of the Servant (vs. 13 – 17)

Similar passage – Joshua 5:13 – 15

*"And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold, there stood a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand: and Joshua went unto him, and said unto him, Art thou for us, or for our adversaries? And he said, Nay; but as captain of the host of the LORD am I now come. And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said unto him, What saith my lord unto his servant? And the captain of the LORD'S host said unto Joshua, Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest is holy. And Joshua did so." - (Joshua 5:13-15)*

Similar Passage – 2 Chronicles 32:7 – 8

*"Be strong and courageous, be not afraid nor dismayed for the king of Assyria, nor for all the multitude that is with him: for there be more with us than with him: With him is an arm of flesh; but with us is the LORD our God to help us, and to fight our battles. And the people rested themselves upon the words of Hezekiah king of Judah." - (2 Chronicles 32:7-8)*

God's people have always had a difficult time looking through the lens of faith to see the Spiritual world that surrounds them.

*"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good report. Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear. ... (v.6) But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." - (Hebrews 11:1-3, 6)*

*"While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal." - (2 Corinthians 4:18)*

*"For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we*

*groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven: If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked. For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life. Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit. Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: (For we walk by faith, not by sight:)" - (2 Corinthians 5:1-7)*

### **Examples of Spiritual Blindness:**

The Nation Israel is blind to the gospel:

*"25 For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in." (Romans 11:25)*

Lost Gentiles are also blind:

*"This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:" - (Ephesians 4:17-18)*

*"But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." - (1 Corinthians 2:14)*

Saved people can also be blind:

*"And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins." - (2 Peter 1:5-9 )*

The world says, "when I see it, then I will believe it", but God says, "if you believe it, then you will see it".

*"For the heart of this people is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes have they closed; lest they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them." - (Acts 28:27)*

What are some of the things that we are spiritually blind to?

**God's Doctrine** – Many of God's people know nothing about God, because they do not open their Bibles to learn of Him. This leads to a false impression of ourselves; errors in morality – knowing right and wrong; our understanding of current and future events; and our basic understanding of God and his purpose for mankind.

**God's Direction** – Because of the lack of doctrine, and a weak relationship with God, most people have no clue as to what the will of God is for their lives. They cannot see what God wants them to do.

**God's Dominion** – We simply cannot see the spiritual world that is all around us. The more faith that you have, the more you will see that the “unseen” world is more real than the world that you can see, hear, and feel with your human senses.

How can you improve your spiritual vision:

**1. Spend time in the Word of God**

*"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."* - (Romans 10:17)

A person cannot get saved apart from the incorruptible seed of the Word of God, and neither can he grow spiritually without it.

**2. Spend time with the God of the Word.**

**3. Spend time with people who can see.**

**III. A Physical Problem with the Sight of the Syrians (vs. 18 – 23)**

Elisha smote the Syrian army with blindness, delivered them to the King of Israel, opened their physical eyes, and then returned them to their homeland.

Final Thought – People who get even the slightest glimpse into the spiritual world and reject what God shows them, will become more blind as time goes on.

If God is showing you something, receive it, and ask for God to show you more.