



Be the Change

Text:

2Kings 7: 1-6 Then Elisha said, Hear ye the word of the Lord; Thus saith the Lord, To morrow about this time shall a measure of fine flour be sold for a shekel, and two measures of barley for a shekel, in the gate of Samaria.**2** Then a lord on whose hand the king leaned answered the man of God, and said, Behold, if the Lord would make windows in heaven, might this thing be? And he said, Behold, thou shalt see it with thine eyes, but shalt not eat thereof. s

3 And there were four leprous men at the entering in of the gate: and they said one to another, Why sit we here until we die?**4** If we say, We will enter into the city, then the famine is in the city, and we shall die there: and if we sit still here, we die also. Now therefore come, and let us fall unto the host of the Syrians: if they save us alive, we shall live; and if they kill us, we shall but die.**5** And they rose up in the twilight, to go unto the camp of the Syrians: and when they were come to the uttermost part of the camp of Syria, behold, there was no man there.**6** For the Lord had made the host of the Syrians to hear a noise of chariots, and a noise of horses, even the noise of a great host: and they said one to another, Lo, the king of Israel hath hired against us the kings of the Hittites, and the kings of the Egyptians, to come upon us.

Elisha the prophet

Kingdom of Judah

Joram – King of Northern Israel (capital city Samaria)

Ben-hadad – King of Syria (capital city Damascus)

The timid, soft steps of the four leprous men cautiously walking on the path to the Syrian camp was amplified and magnified by God into a roar of chariot wheels rumbling, swords clanging, horses panting, soldiers shouting, and trumpets blasting. This roar melted the Syrian soldiers hearts with a frightful fear of a devastating defeat. The noise of confusion went crackling through the camp like a wind-swept fire.

The church may seem to be a rag-tag group of weekend soldiers with:

Low budgets

Untrained soldiers

Underpaid leaders

With highly criticized efforts

With a task which seems unattainable, unimaginable, and unfathomable

But God can: Amplify our voice

Magnify our work

Glorify our endeavors

He can also: Rectify our failures

Mystify our enemies

Gratify our labors

Many are waiting for God to move but God is saying “Don’t Just Sit there do something!”

16 And the people went out, and spoiled the tents of the Syrians. So a measure of fine flour was sold for a shekel, and two measures of barley for a shekel, according to the word of the Lord.

17 And the king appointed the lord on whose hand he leaned to have the charge of the gate: and the people trode upon him in the gate, and he died, as the man of God had said, who spake when the king came down to him. **18** And it came to pass as the man of God had spoken to the king, saying, Two measures of barley for a shekel, and a measure of fine flour for a shekel, shall be to morrow about this time in the gate of Samaria **19** And that lord answered the man of God, and said, Now, behold, if the Lord should make windows in heaven, might such a thing be? And he said, Behold, thou shalt see it with thine eyes, but shalt not eat thereof. **20** And so it fell out unto him: for the people trode upon him in the gate, and he died.

· Problems are always the doorway to the next level of growth – that’s why God allows us to experience them.

“I want to be a thermostat and not a thermometer!

David & Goliath

The 1st words ever spoken by David in the Bible were: 1Sa 17:26 And David spake to the men that stood by him, saying, What shall be done to the man that killeth this Philistine, and taketh away the reproach from Israel? for who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?

David shows up discussing God. We have yet to see anyone soldier, brothers, king...mention God...Can I tell you that you may be the only one in your world who is talking about God?

He goes to the king, 1Sa 17:37 David said moreover, The LORD that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine. And Saul said unto David, Go, and the LORD be with thee.

He continues the theme with Goliath, 1Sa 17:45 Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied.

46 This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcases of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.

47 And all this assembly shall know that the LORD saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the LORD'S, and he will give you into our hands.

NO ONE ELSE DISCUSSES GOD. DAVID DISCUSSES NO ONE ELSE BUT GOD.

DAVID SEES WHAT OTHER DON'T AND REFUSES TO SEE WHAT OTHERS DO.

EVERYONE ELSE FOR 40 DAYS HAS MAJORED ON GOLIATH

DAVID MAJORS ON GOD.

David saw more than anyone else that day. How do I know? Look at what he said to his giant. 1Sa 17:45 Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied.

Armies? I can't even see one let alone a multitude of armies. But David saw the host of heaven standing by...

Here is one of my favorite verses:

*1Sa 17:48 ¶ And it came to pass, when the Philistine arose, and came and drew nigh to meet David, that David hasted, and **ran** toward the army to meet the Philistine.*

I can see David's brothers-embarrassment

Saul's sigh

Goliath as he throws back his head in laughter just enough to shift his helmet and expose a square inch of forehead flesh.

David spots the target and seizes the moment...

HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN SINCE YOU RAN TOWARD YOUR CHALLENGE? How long has it been since you became the solution and not the problem.

Will Rogers said, "Even if you are on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there."

It's time to stand up and be the change!

We tend to retreat into...

James Baldwin said, "Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced."

2 Sam 23:11 And after him was Shammah the son of Agee the Hararite. And the Philistines were gathered together into a troop, where was a piece of ground full of lentiles: and the people fled from the Philistines.**12** But he stood in the midst of the ground, and defended it, and slew the Philistines: and the Lord wrought a great victory.

Acts 16:19 And when her masters saw that the hope of their gains was gone, they caught Paul and Silas, and drew them into the marketplace unto the rulers.**20** And brought them to the magistrates, saying, These men, being Jews, do exceedingly trouble our city,**21** And teach customs, which are not lawful for us to receive, neither to observe, being Romans.**22** And the multitude rose up together against them: and the magistrates rent off their clothes, and commanded to beat them.**23** And when they had laid many stripes upon them, they cast them into prison, charging the jailor to keep them safely:**24** Who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks.

25 And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.**26** And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed.**27** And the keeper of the prison awaking out of his sleep, and seeing the prison doors open, he drew out his sword, and would have killed himself, supposing that the prisoners had been fled.**28** But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, Do thyself no harm: for we are all here.**29** Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas,**30** And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved?

"It's time for greatness not for greed. It's time for idealism not ideology. It is a time not just for compassionate words, but compassionate action." – Marian Wright Edelman

Jimmy Carter said this, "I have one life and one chance to make it count for something...I am free to choose what that something is, and the something I've chosen is my faith. Now, my faith goes beyond theology and religion and requires considerable work and effort. My faith demands-this is not optional-my faith demands that I do whatever I can, wherever I am, whenever I can, for as long as I can with whatever I have, to try to make a difference."

He was sentenced to death when he was 16 yrs old for a murder he did not commit. He was on death row for five years, spending 23hrs a day in his cell.

Shareef Cousin said, At 16, you don't think about fighting for your life, especially for a crime you didn't commit. I thought about how I would never get a chance to graduate high school. I contemplated suicide a few times. I prayed a lot. I cried a lot. And I studied a lot. I always had a desire for education. My lawyers sent me English, math, and science books, I received my GED, and then started college correspondence courses, all at my lawyer's expense.

Once you accept that you are going to die, you learn to find the little things that you can enjoy in each moment. For me it was education. I started helping other inmates with their cases. I never judged people or their situations. I just wanted to help people because someone helped me. Some guys in prison would tell me, "Man, you're wasting your time. That dude doesn't appreciate what you're doing for him." But I was like, "It's not whether he appreciates it. It's about me. I feel good helping him." People helping me steered my path.

Had people not helped me, I'd probably be executed or still on death row. Since my release, I've started work at the

Southern Center for Human Rights. I'm now a program organizer for the center's Fairness for Prisoners' Families program. I want to be a trial attorney. I'll be going to Morehouse College in the fall and working full-time.

I do volunteer service too. At a place that provides food and clothes for homeless people.

Being on death row makes you face the fact that, when we die, we all want to know that we've made some sort of contribution to society, however small it may be. And your small bit of help may be large to someone else. What's small to us might make a world of difference to someone else.

Converted with [Word to HTML](#).