

## **SERMON: RECOVER THE AXE HEAD**

**7-2-23**

### **OPENER:**

**Our leadership in this church meets every month. This includes all of our Serve Team Leaders and Our Groups Leaders. In this meeting we pray for you, we pray for one another and we have time of teaching and training to better ourselves as leaders. Would all of our Serve Team leaders and our Group Leaders.... (Please stand).**

**This past week, at our meeting, as we were praying for our Men's Conference and laid hands on Randy Turner. (Randy is our Men's Group Leader here) Pastor Heather heard a Word from the Lord that she shared with Pastor Brendon and I following the meeting....."RECOVER THE AXE HEAD".**

**This phrase may sound unfamiliar to you, but it is pertaining to a passage of scripture in 2 Kings chapter 6. I felt it timely to share that word from God and share some key points.**

**We are in a great time of recovery and restoration for the church.**

- > We are recovering and being healed of some things that have bound us and kept us in chains for generations.**
- > God is restoring our foundations of repentance, salvation and holiness.**
- > He is restoring our strength, our zeal, and our commitment to Him.**
- > He is restoring our light to this world.**
- > He is bringing back to his church His glory and His presence that we have lost.**

**When I say the church, I mean the church world-wide. We are a part of "the church".**

**Restoration is a beautiful thing. It is a returning of things that once were. It's a bringing back of things to the original design and original plan. Putting back into place some things that have been lost. God is doing this by doing some repair and reconstruction in the hearts of His people.**

**Let's look at the "recovery of the axe head" in scripture.....**

***2 Kings 6:1-7 (NKJV) And the sons of the prophets said to Elisha, "See now, the place where we dwell with you is too small for us. <sup>2</sup> Please, let us go to the Jordan, and let every man take a beam from there, and let us make there a place where we may dwell."***

***So he answered, "Go."***

***<sup>3</sup> Then one said, "Please consent to go with your servants."***

***And he answered, "I will go." <sup>4</sup> So he went with them. And when they came to the Jordan, they cut down trees. <sup>5</sup> But as one was cutting down a tree, the iron ax***

*head fell into the water; and he cried out and said, "Alas, master! For it was borrowed."*

*<sup>6</sup> So the man of God said, "Where did it fall?" And he showed him the place. So he cut off a stick, and threw it in there; and he made the iron float. <sup>7</sup> Therefore he said, "Pick it up for yourself." So he reached out his hand and took it.*

*(Explain scripture)*

This passage is about a group of prophets, They were a community. Growing together. Doing life together. Much like our community here. They were learning from the Prophet Elisha and applying what he taught them.

I am speaking to everyone in this house today, but this scripture today is primarily for the men of this house. You each are a *"son of God."*

I am going to talk about TWO Main Points from this passage of scripture:

#1: GOD IS ENLARGING US

#2: HE IS RECOVERING WHAT HAS BEEN LOST

### I. GOD IS ENLARGING US

The group of prophets said..... *"As you can see, this place where we dwell is too small for us."*

They were dwelling with Elisha but said that the place that they were dwelling together was "too small." They had outgrown where they were at.

*David said....Psalm 119:32 (NKJV) I will run the course of Your commandments, for You shall enlarge my heart.*

I believe today that God wants to broaden, enlarge, and grow each person sitting in this house today. I believe the men of this house have realized that the place where they are living is confining them, and it has become too small.

I believe that right now, in this season of the church, that the Holy Spirit is dealing with us to enlarge heart. To make a place for God. To enlarge our capacity for the things of God.

*David said....Psalm 18:19 (NIV) He brought me out into a spacious place; he rescued me because he delighted in me.*

**I BELIEVE THE HOLY SPIRIT IS SAYING TODAY,**

**"MAKE A PLACE FOR ME."**

**"YOU HAVE CONFINED ME TO A SMALL PLACE IN YOUR LIFE AND I WANT A LARGER PLACE."**

The prophet Haggai spoke of this very thing.....

*Haggai 1:3-9 (NLT) Then the Lord sent this message through the prophet Haggai: <sup>4</sup> "Why are you living in luxurious houses while my house lies in ruins? <sup>5</sup> This is what the Lord of Heaven's Armies says: Look at what's happening to you! <sup>6</sup> You have planted much but harvest little. You eat but are not satisfied. You drink but*

*are still thirsty. You put on clothes but cannot keep warm. Your wages disappear as though you were putting them in pockets filled with holes!*

*<sup>7</sup> “This is what the Lord of Heaven’s Armies says: Look at what’s happening to you! <sup>8</sup> Now go up into the hills, bring down timber, and rebuild my house. Then I will take pleasure in it and be honored, says the Lord. <sup>9</sup>*

God doesn’t want us to be more consumed with our own needs, while God’s purpose lies in ruins in our lives. It is so easy for the cares of this life, our jobs, caring for our homes, the pursuit of money to push out our pursuit of God.

**BUT GOD DOESN’T WANT HIS PLANS TO GO UNATTENDED TO, OR KEPT IN A  
BACK, SMALL ROOM IN OUR HEARTS  
AND WE ONLY GET TO THEM WHEN EVERYTHING ELSE  
IS DONE IN OUR LIVES.**

**GOD WANTS OUR WHOLE HEART.  
HE WANTS TO BE THE CENTER OF OUR LIVES.**

**HE WANTS TO BE FIRST IN ALL WE DO.**

#### **HOW DO WE ENLARGE OUR HEARTS?**

**TWO THINGS:**

##### **1. WE MUST GO TO THE JORDAN**

*“..... Let’s go down to the Jordan River, where there are plenty of logs. There we can build a new place for us to meet.”*

The Jordan River appears many times within the scriptures. It often refers to a freedom that comes after a long season of adversity and waiting. The Jordan represents a boundary; a crossing point. Crossing the Jordan is a turning point on the way to freedom. The waters of the Jordan represent freedom from oppression, breakthrough, and deliverance.

We remember the Jordan in the crossing into the promise land of the Israelites.....

The Israelites were reaching the last leg of their journey through the wilderness en route to the promised land. But in this moment it was coming to a conclusion.

It is impossible to grasp the full significance of this moment without considering all that the Israelites had been through up to that point. A two-week flight from Egypt turned into a 40-year multi-generational saga. On the way they endured hunger and loss; heat and exhaustion, during what seemed to be a never-ending journey.

We often find ourselves in state of crossing and transition after times of being stuck in a “wilderness.” Perhaps we can’t relate to being stuck in a literal desert, But we relate in other ways:

Have you ever experienced a wilderness in your life?

- > Maybe you can relate to being in a place in your life where you feel stuck. That, no matter what you do and no matter how many times you “recalculate the route”, it gets you right back to where you started.
- > Or perhaps you are experiencing a lack of fulfillment in your relationships, health, career, or your destiny and purpose and life.
- > Maybe you have given up hope of things ever changing for the better. In result, you have decided to tread those same well-worn, familiar paths of bitterness, hopelessness, cynicism and defeat.

It can become commonplace to accept this state as status quo.

And we groan to God, just like the Israelites:..... “*Why have you made us come up from Egypt, to bring us in to this wretched place?*” (Numbers 20:5).

## HOW DO WE ENLARGE OUR HEARTS?

### 2. EVERY MAN MUST BUILD

..... “*Every man*” was to take a log from there.

They would have to work together. The building would require work from each man. No one was to sit down, no one was to only watch the others do the work. The work would be done by every man putting his hand to build. Each man was to cut down a tree of his own to be put in with the others to build a new dwelling place.

**THEY WERE GOING TO BUILD TOGETHER.  
DWELL TOGETHER AND LEARN AND GROW TOGETHER.**

*Ephesians 4:16 (NIV) From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.*

**IF WE ARE TO BUILD ANYTHING FOR THE KINGDOM OF GOD, IT MUST BE DONE TOGETHER.**

**EVERY MAN - EVERY WOMAN - NO ONE IS EXEMPT FROM THE WORK OF THE KINGDOM.**

## SECOND MAIN POINT FROM THIS SCRIPTURE:

### II. WE ARE RECOVERING WHAT HAS BEEN LOST

They came to the Jordan and were cutting down trees with their axes. One of the axe heads fell in the water and the man was absolutely distraught. He cried out to Elisha.... “*Oh, sir! It was a borrowed ax!*”

The axe in this story = represents provision, identity, usefulness, defense.

As I opened this message today, I said that God is restoring some things to His church. We are recovering some things that the enemy has lost and stolen from us. Our identity, our usefulness, our purpose, our ability to defend ourselves.

**SIDE NOTE:**

I learned this year that Fathers Day, statistically is the least attended church service for churches for the whole year. Because fathers choose to go to the lake, cookout, or attend a sports event instead of taking their families to church. No longer are they the spiritual leaders in their home; being the example of faithful service and the pursuit of God.  
The man said, *"it was borrowed"*.

**WE CAN BORROW OUR IDENTITY FROM SOMEONE ELSE.  
WE CAN LIVE IN THE PUPOSE THAT OUR EARTHLY FATHERS HAVE PASSED  
DOWN TO US AND NOT LIVE IN THE PURPOSE OF OUR HEAVENLY FATHER.**

**WE CAN BORROW OUR IDEA OF OUR USEFULNESS FOR THE KINGDOM FROM  
MAN'S RELIGIOUS IDEAS.  
AND SAY "IT IS OKAY THAT I DON'T TAKE UP A TOOL AND WORK ALONG WITH  
THE OTHERS."  
"BECAUSE I AM PRESENT THAT IS ENOUGH."**

**WE ARE LIVING OUT WHAT WE HAVE BEEN TOLD WE ARE SUPPOSE TO BE  
INSTEAD OF LOOKING INTO THE TRUTH OF GOD'S WORD OF WHO HE WANTS  
US TO BE.**

**BUT GOD IS RESTORING US TO HIS ORIGINAL PLAN.  
HE IS RESTORING US TO OUR IDENTITY IN HIM.**

**HOW DO WE RECOVER WHAT HAS BEEN LOST?**

**1. WE MUST RETURN TO WHERE WE LOST IT**

The man who lost the axe head ran and found Elisha and the question that Elisha asks is.... *"Where did it fall?"*

**TO RECOVER WHAT YOU LOST YOU MUST  
ADMIT YOU LOST IT.  
TO RECOVER WHAT YOU LOST YOU MUST  
RETURN TO WHERE YOU LOST IT.**

- > Have you misplaced yourself?
- > Have you lost your Identity?
- > Have you lost your first love for God? Have you left your

**fellowship with Him?**

- > **Have you lost your robe of righteousness that the Lord gave you? Did you compromise in sin and lay it down?**
- > **Did you lose your courage?**
- > **Did you lose your zeal and your strength? Was it in a disappointment? Or in something that failed?**
- > **Did you lost your power when you stopped praying?**
- > **Or when you refused to forgive a brother, or let sin take control of your life? Quit playing the blame game and admit you have lost something and say....."Lord, I have sinned".**
- > **Where did you lose God's power? Return to that place.**

***Zechariah 1:3,(NLT) "Return to me, and I will return to you".***

- > **Or maybe God wants you to recover something you have had. Maybe your identity is not even your own. Maybe it was something that was passed down to you. And God wants you to find your identity in Him.**
- > **Maybe your relationship with Christ was never original to you. Maybe it was never your own . Maybe you lived off of others relationship. Maybe you have been living off of a borrowed relationship.**

**GO BACK TO THE PLACE WHERE YOU LOST IT AND  
LET GOD REDEEM IT.**

**We've heard it said many times, that if you ever lose your way in the Lord, go back to where you got off track and begin again there.**

- > **What was the last thing that God spoke to you?**
  - > **Have you done the thing He asked you to do?**
- .....the scripture says that in response, Elisha "*cut off a stick threw it in the water and he made the axe float.*"**

**THE STICK THAT ELISHA THREW IN THE WATER REPRESENTS CHRIST WHO  
WAS WOUNDED FOR OUR SIN ON A TREE.  
ONLY HE IN THE MIDDLE OF THINGS CAN CAUSE US TO RISE FROM THE OLD  
AND INTO THE NEW.**

**FROM BARREN TO FRUITFUL.  
FROM BONDAGE TO REDEMPTION.  
FROM HOPELESSNESS TO HOPEFUL.**

**WITH HIS BLOOD, HIS PRESENCE, AND HIS POWER, HE CAUSES US TO RISE IN  
HIM AND BE RESTORED IN  
IDENTITY AND PURPOSE.**

***1 Peter 2:24 (NKJV) who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.***

***“He is the vine we are the branches.”***

## **HOW DO WE RECOVER WHAT HAS BEEN LOST?**

### **2. WE MUST PICK IT UP**

**The Prophet then gives instruction to “...Pick it up for yourself!” AND the man “...reached out his hand and took it!**

***Philippians 3:12 (NIV) Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.***

**Its time to recover the Axe head.**

**Time to recover what has been lost.**

**To recover together.**

**To return to the Jordan.**

**To ask ourselves where did I lose it. To let God redeem it.**

**To allow Christ in us, His plans, to rise.**

**To step into purpose. To “grab” hold of what Christ has laid hold of for us.**

**To be restored in purpose, in identity. To unify.**