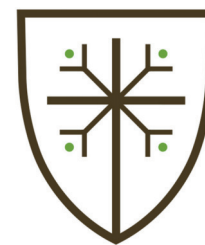




# ELISHA

*Renewal in the Spirit*

# SERMON NOTES



June 30, 2024

## SERMON INFO

### TITLE

“Small Concerns”

### PREACHER

Rev. Josh Keller

### TEXTS

2 Kings 6:1-7

Romans 8:26-32

Matthew 18:1-4

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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When you consider things in your own life that you've passed over as “small concerns” before God, what is usually your reason for doing so?
2. How do we form a habits of prayer in our lives that make prayer our first thought instead of an afterthought?

## SERMON IN SUMMARY

This week, we continued our series on the life of Elisha with a story that seems rather out of place with the remarkable acts Elisha has been performing – raising the dead, healing the powerful leader, Naaman. But here, a nameless man loses the head of his ax and Elisha brings it back for him.

### What's the point?

Losing a borrowed ax head would've been a big deal in Elisha's day. They were expensive and you couldn't just go down to Home Depot and get another one. So, practically speaking, Elisha saves this man from becoming indebted. In the same waters where Naaman was restored to health, Elisha restores this man's livelihood. Restoration starts in the spiritual world but it must and does pour out into every area of life. Regardless, it is still a comparatively small concern. And it shows us that God is attentive to even the smallest of things in bringing kingdom restoration. We often just come to God to get something from him. We divide God from the “real” world into what we consider the spiritual realm only. But in reality, everything belongs to him. God desires to be in relationship with us and for his kingdom restoration to touch every part of our life.

### What does it mean for us?

This story provides an invitation to us to bring our small concerns to God. There are many excuses we often lean on for not doing this: We don't want to bother him, we don't want to hear “no,” or perhaps we even struggle to believe that God is actually on our side. So, we pray when God becomes our last resort. But God's posture to us, throughout all of human history, is one of generosity. He gave us the cross in answer to the original lie in the garden that “God is not for us.” And now, He gives us His Spirit to intercede according to his will when we think we don't know how to ask. Often, what lies behind our worry of our concerns being too insignificant is the reality that we don't want to be dependent on God. We run from dependence on him. And if we're afraid he might say no, we want to avoid it.

Jesus calls us to lay down this posture of independence of become like a child, utterly dependent on God, reliant for everything. There is nothing too small for a child to ask from their parent. And so should we be with God.