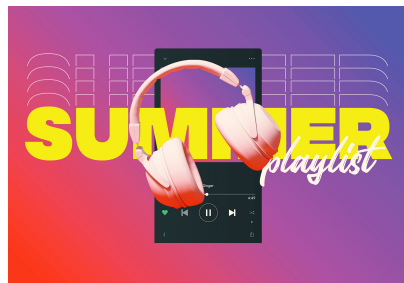


SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia @10:10 Message...

Eyes to See

With Vanessa Dawson
Next Generation Team Leader
August 1, 2021



Have you ever been in a situation or had an experience where things weren't quite what you expected?

2 Kings 6:8-17 When the king of Aram was at war with Israel, he would confer with his officers and say, "We will mobilize our forces at such and such a place."⁹ But immediately Elisha, the man of God, would warn the king of Israel, "Do not go near that place, for the Arameans are planning to mobilize their troops there."¹⁰ So the king of Israel would send word to the place indicated by the man of God. Time and again Elisha warned the king, so that he would be on the alert there.¹¹ The king of Aram became very upset over this. He called his officers together and demanded, "Which of you is the traitor? Who has been informing the king of Israel of my plans?"¹² "It's not us, my lord the king," one of the officers replied. "Elisha, the prophet in Israel, tells the king of Israel even the words you speak in the privacy of your bedroom!"¹³ "Go and find out where he is," the king commanded, "so I can send troops to seize him." And the report came back: "Elisha is at Dothan."¹⁴ So one night the king of Aram sent a great army with many chariots and horses to surround the city.¹⁵ When the servant of the man of God got up early the next morning and went outside, there were troops, horses, and chariots everywhere. "Oh, sir, what will we do now?" the young man cried to Elisha.

- **The wrong perspective is paralyzing.**

¹⁶ "Don't be afraid!" Elisha told him. "For there are more on our side than on theirs!"¹⁷ Then Elisha prayed, "O Lord, open his eyes and let him see!" The Lord opened the young man's eyes, and when he looked up, he saw that the hillside around Elisha was filled with horses and chariots of fire.

- **God's perspective is empowering.**

Big Idea: See Life through God's perspective.

Psalm 121. I look up to the mountains— does my help come from there? ² My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth! ³ He will not let you stumble; the one who watches over you will not slumber. ⁴ Indeed, he who watches over Israel never slumbers or sleeps. ⁵ The Lord himself watches over you! The Lord stands beside you as your protective shade. ⁶ The sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon at night. ⁷ The Lord keeps you from all harm and watches over your life. ⁸ The Lord keeps watch over you as you come and go, both now and forever.

1 John 4:4 "But you belong to God, my dear children. You have already won a victory over those people, because the Spirit who lives in you is greater than the spirit who lives in the world."

How do we SEE life through God's perspective?

S – Start with God. Remember that God is with you, no matter what! Matthew 28:20 "And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

E – Engage in Prayer. Philippians 4:6-8 "Don't worry about anything, instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus."

E – Entrust your life to Jesus. Proverbs 3:5-6 "Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take."

Henry Blackaby "Gaze at God and Glance at our Circumstances."

Corrie ten Boom "If you look at the world, you'll be distressed. If you look within, you'll be depressed. But if you look at Christ, you'll be at rest."

"Jesus did not promise to change the circumstances around us. He promised great peace and pure joy to those who would learn to believe that God actually controls all things."

"When a train goes through a tunnel and it gets dark, you don't throw away the ticket and jump off. You sit still and trust the engineer."



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To get plugged in email:
impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

Eyes to See
#2 of 7 - August 1, 2021

1. What stood out to you from this message?
2. Read 2 Kings 6:8-17. Where does this account take place and who are the main characters?
3. What observations can you make about how the two kings, Elisha and his servant responded to this situation?
4. When you consider your current circumstances, who do you identify the most with in this passage of scripture? The king of Aram who is trying to take control? Elisha's servant paralyzed by fear? Or Elisha empowered by God?
5. What do we learn from Elisha's response to the enemy forces that have surrounded the city?
6. How does Elisha's prayer support the following scriptures? Matthew 1:23, 1John 4:4 and Joshua 1:9 What is the significance of this kingdom reality in our lives? Where would you conclude Elisha's perspective comes from?
7. How can you SEE life through God's perspective? Which element do you need to apply this week? **S**tart with God? **E**ngage in Prayer? Or **E**ntrust your life to Jesus?
8. "The wrong perspective is paralyzing." Where have you experienced this in your life? "God's perspective is empowering." Share an example of when you have seen this in your life.
9. What circumstance or relationship are you navigating right now where you need God to show you His perspective? How can you take intentional steps to surrender your heart and mind to God and what He wants to do in and through you in this season? What next step is God asking you to take in trusting Him?



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