**Pastor Lloyd’s Sermon Notes from 20th February 2022**

**WHAT DO YOU SEE #4 - GOD WHO IS FOR ME - 2 Kings 6:8-17**

Elisha was frustrating the king of Aram’s plans to invade Israel, every time he would amass his army Elisha would hear from God the plan and warn his army to move from the location. The king of Aram thought he had a traitor in his army giving away his secrets. The prophet Elisha was discerning the enemy’s secrets telling the king of Israel and foiling their invasion plans. So, Elisha became a hunted man. The message today centres on the moment Elisha’s young servant looks out the window one morning and sees he is surrounded by the enemy - horses, chariots, and troop’s intent on killing Elisha. He is caught up in something that looks like it’s not going to end well.

And the cry of the young man is echoed by many of us in our lives…Lord, what shall I do?  I’m surrounded, the enemy is at the door, they are many, we are about to perish!  And to this young man comes the message – Fear not! For there are many more on our side than theirs!  Lord open the young man’s eyes and let him see!  And when he did. He saw all around the hills surrounding were horses and chariots of fire.

Today I want to encourage you to know and understand that – When God is for you NOTHING can win against you.

1. **Sometimes we need to have our eyes opened to what God has for us.**

We live our lives in this World fixated with what we see, touch, and smell… and the problems and circumstances we face can overwhelm us because this dimension is not adequate to handle what we face. Fear hits our hearts when we look out the window like this young servant and see our enemies and problems surrounding us – they are real and intend on immobilising, damaging, and destroying you.   We need to have our eyes opened to what God is doing in the situation, what he has for us, what his purposes are for our lives. Last Sunday I spoke about the giants that live in the land/our lives. Giants of fear, unforgiveness, tradition, pride, hardness of heart, unbelief, and sickness. If we don’t give them up they reside in us and surround us and we become bound by them. And when they live and reside in your heart – your first response is to fear. But here is another way to affirm as your FIRST RESPONSE is to remember...God is for me! And the Word of the Lord to your heart today is FEAR NOT…. God is FOR YOU… there is more on your side than those who oppose you.  ***1 John 4.4*** *Greater is he who is in you than he who is in the world.*

***2.* When he looked up – the young man saw what God had provided.**

Looking out or looking downcast is no place to see what God has provided…he looked UP and the answer was there.  We look out too much and not up enough! Lift your eyes UP this morning and see what God has promised and provided for you…. Sometimes God does not eliminate your problems but he will help you find a way through, around, or over them. If you read on in this story what God did was not a fight but a redirection. Sometimes the answer to our problems comes in a different way from what we expect. So my word to you is don’t look out, don’t look down - ‘look up’ and *see what God has provided for you*. And when he did the young man saw.

**3. What God provided was superior - both in numbers and also in *strength*.**

Yes, the enemy's numbers were strong and significant but God's army were chariots of fire that were superior and would prevail.  Fire in the Bible always speaks of cleansing and purifying but it also is a fire of protection…a wall of fire….fire surrounded the ark of the covenant, fire came on those early believers in the upper room, Sometimes we need to look up and let God vindicate and deliver us from what might take us out or down. The Bible says in v18 ‘as the enemy army advanced towards him Elisha prayed... God, please blind them! – and so it happened. Their attack was repelled by the fire of God which blinded them.

**4. Our desperation is the trigger for God’s intervention.**

God has got your back!  He is on your side, in the Spiritual World there are forces that watch over you that you rarely see.  Paul says, (Ephesians 6:12 *We fight against powers and authorities in the spiritual world*…ours is not a fight of flesh and blood,) but of a spirit world where the kingdom is coming down…coming here. Maybe this morning you are facing some situation that threatens to overwhelm you.  Is your employment uncertain? Is your relationship breaking down? Are your resources dwindling or your health situation worsening? Look up! See what God has provided. God is FOR YOU. Today I want you to remember just four words GOD IS FOR YOU!  I want you to open your eyes and see with faith that surrounding you are the armies of God's angels...in the spirit world. The Bible tells me that there is this dimension of the spirit, closer than the air we breathe where God dwells.  It is discerned by the spirit, and that is where battles are won and lost. Sometimes we just need to look up...declare God is for me! Sometimes we need to push through this World into that dimension and call down God’s power to aid us in our struggles.

**Romans 8:28** *God works everything for good for those who love God and are called according to his purpose*.....but how well do we know **Romans 8:31**?

*‘If God is for us who can be against us’ – since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else!*

There is always a way – God will make a way, where there is no way. Right through the Bible are stories of God making a way where there seems to be none. Joshua and Jericho – defeating a walled-up enemy. Moses and the Red Sea – trapped – the enemy closing in – God opens up a way where there was none. Jehoshaphat is surrounded by the enemy and Zechariah reminds them in  2 Chronicles 20 - *The battle is not yours it is God's.* David and his fight with Goliath – *‘that all may know there is God in Israel’*. Daniel in the Lion's den. Shadrack, Meshach, and Abednego in the fiery furnace – it's all over! But God made a way where there was no way. Whether we live or die, we will not bow! Paul and Silas in prison.Gomorrah. Jonah – finds a way back to rediscover his true mission*. The prodigal* son finds a way home. Peter finds a way forward from failure. Paul finds a way through all his trials and opposition. The first followers of Jesus were called ‘people of the way’. God makes a way because he is FOR YOU.

**Luke 21:28** what does God promise for us? Is the future going to be full of joy and fun like a cruise ship odyssey? No –the Bible tells me that ahead lies, conflict, opposition, strife and turmoil. The Bible speaks of days coming when nation will rise against nation - Famines and earthquakes and great miraculous signs from heaven - Great opposition and persecution for the church - Followers of Jesus will be imprisoned and bought before courts. When these things happen - *look up your redemption draws nigh.* Most of our prayers are – God bless, keep me, protect me, heal me, love me. And what I read is that most times God does not take away the problem he shows you that he outnumbers your foe and the way through or around it. He does not eradicate your enemies he shows you how to triumph over them.

By opening your eyes to this truth – I AM FOR YOU, WITH YOU, IN YOU…AND WILL MAKE A WAY FOR YOU.

1. Recalibrate your thinking – Not by might, but by my Spirit – Zechariah
2. Review my horizon....rain coming…Elijah servant…small cloud.
3. Report your sightings….See giants or mighty God? Caleb/Joshua
4. Reconsider a God who is for you… Elisha – lift up your eyes!