

# BELPRES CHURCH

## Sermon Title: The Sixth Sense

**Opening Question:** Looking back to last week's sermon and scripture... How did you live differently or practice what we talked about in your life this week? What did you do and how did it go?

### This week's scriptures:

#### 2 Kings 6:8-23

"Now the king of Aram was at war with Israel. After conferring with his officers, he said, "I will set up my camp in such and such a place."

<sup>9</sup>The man of God sent word to the king of Israel: "Beware of passing that place, because the Arameans are going down there." <sup>10</sup>So the king of Israel checked on the place indicated by the man of God. Time and again Elisha warned the king, so that he was on his guard in such places.

<sup>11</sup>This enraged the king of Aram. He summoned his officers and demanded of them, "Tell me! Which of us is on the side of the king of Israel?"

<sup>12</sup>"None of us, my lord the king," said one of his officers, "but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the very words you speak in your bedroom."

<sup>13</sup>"Go, find out where he is," the king ordered, "so I can send men and capture him." The report came back: "He is in Dothan." <sup>14</sup>Then he sent horses and chariots and a strong force there. They went by night and surrounded the city.

<sup>15</sup>When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early the next morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. "Oh no, my lord! What shall we do?" the servant asked.

<sup>16</sup>"Don't be afraid," the prophet answered. "Those who are with us are more than those who are with them."

**17** And Elisha prayed, "Open his eyes, LORD, so that he may see." Then the LORD opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

**18** As the enemy came down toward him, Elisha prayed to the LORD, "Strike this army with blindness." So he struck them with blindness, as Elisha had asked.

**19** Elisha told them, "This is not the road and this is not the city. Follow me, and I will lead you to the man you are looking for." And he led them to Samaria.

**20** After they entered the city, Elisha said, "LORD, open the eyes of these men so they can see." Then the LORD opened their eyes and they looked, and there they were, inside Samaria.

**21** When the king of Israel saw them, he asked Elisha, "Shall I kill them, my father? Shall I kill them?"

**22** "Do not kill them," he answered. "Would you kill those you have captured with your own sword or bow? Set food and water before them so that they may eat and drink and then go back to their master." **23** So he prepared a great feast for them, and after they had finished eating and drinking, he sent them away, and they returned to their master. So the bands from Aram stopped raiding Israel's territory."

(Further reading to enhance the discussion: Ephesians 1:18-22 and Ephesians 3:20-21)

**Scripture Reflection Questions:** Read this week's scripture together and discuss the following (note: we use the same scripture reflection questions each week so that we can practice using the same tools over time as we examine different scriptures):

- What do you feel when you read this scripture (excited, angry, worried, etc....)? Why do you think that is? (Explain in your group and then take that response to Jesus in prayer this week.)
- As you read this scripture, where does it challenge your current cultural context?

**Sermon Reflection Questions:** Reflecting on this week's sermon, discuss the following:

- What are the characteristics of the physical/material approach of the two kings in this story (Aram/Israel) and how are they different than the spiritual approach of Elisha? What are the outcomes and actions of each approach?
- What do you think about how Elisha advises the king to treat their enemies (vs. 21-23)? Is this always the right approach?
- Where have you/do you see spiritual power at work in your life, church, world?

**Closing Question and Application:** Given what we've discussed together today, how might God want you to apply these learnings to your life or in the life of your community this next week? Who might you share this with?

**Closing group prayer:** Spend a few minutes together in your group sharing prayer requests and then praying together for each other. Take the challenging parts of your conversation to Jesus. Thank God for the time together, the conversation shared, the other people in the group, and for encouragement in the week ahead.