

# PUT THINE HAND UPON THE BOW

2 KINGS 13:14-19

Text: 2 Kings 13:16

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And he said to the king of Israel, Put thine hand upon the bow. And he put his hand upon it: and Elisha put his hands upon the king's hands.

Introduction:

## **1. THE TASK (14-17)**

This scene can be easily confusing, but in the Eastern lands much instruction was given by symbolic actions.

King Joash seemed uninspired, and content, and Elisha was symbolically urging him and his nation to victory. The Prophet was departing life, but the fight would still go on. Elisha was spurring Joash to:

A. Public Warfare.

The cities which Syria had taken from Israel needed to be recovered.

## 2 Kings 13:25

And Jehoash the son of Jehoahaz took again out of the hand of Ben-hadad the son of Hazael the cities, which he had taken out of the hand of Jehoahaz his father by war. Three times did Joash beat him, and recovered the cities of Israel.

1. Elisha was trying to stir up the sluggish king.
2. That's the Lord's call to every Christian.

## B. Personal Warfare

Paul often likened the Christian life to a personal battle.

## Romans 7:23

But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.

## Ephes. 6:10

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

## 2 Cor. 10:3

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:

1. How are we doing in the battle against the powerful inward foe, the flesh?

2. We have the ability to win this battle.

Galatians 5:16

This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

## **2. THE TOUCH (16)**

In verse 16 the trembling hands of the king are touched by the rugged hands of the prophet. In doing so Elisha was saying:

A. God's presence is with you.

1. What an encouragement.

2. We too have that same promise.

Matthew 28:20

Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Hebrews 13:5

Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

B. God's power is upon you.

2 Kings 13:25

And Jehoash the son of Jehoahaz took again out of the hand of Ben-hadad the son of Hazael the cities, which he had taken out of the hand of Jehoahaz his father by war. Three times did Joash beat him, and recovered the cities of Israel.

1. When God's hand is upon us is anything impossible?

Philip. 4:13

I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

C. God's has a purpose for you.

God's purpose for Israel was victory over Syria.

2 Kings 13:17

And he said, Open the window eastward. And he opened it. Then Elisha said, Shoot. And he shot. And he said, The arrow of the Lord's deliverance, and the arrow of deliverance from Syria: for thou shalt smite the Syrians in Aphek, till thou have consumed them.

### 3. THE TEST (18-19)

2 Kings 13:18-19

And he said, Take the arrows. And he took them. And he said unto the king of Israel, Smite upon the ground. And he smote thrice, and stayed. 19And the man of God was wroth with him, and said, Thou shouldest have smitten five or six times; then hadst thou smitten Syria till thou hadst consumed it: whereas now thou shalt smite Syria but thrice.

A. Why didn't he get excited?

1. Did he feel silly?
2. Was he full of pride?
3. Did he misunderstand?

B. He did believe there could be any connection between firing arrows in private and later seeing total victory in public.

C. Are we not guilty of the same thing?

1. We limp along in our prayer life.
2. We drag around in our reading of God's Word.

3. We grow content in usual instead of longing for the unusual.

Close:

We need to be wholehearted, boldly believing that through us God wants to do unusual things. Are we will to follow the Lord faithfully, wholeheartedly, and courageously?

Let's put our hand on the bow.