

The Christian Centre, Middlesbrough

Teaching Notes from Sunday, 20th May 2007...Recovery Series

Today's theme: Cutting edge Christianity...2 Kings 6 v 1-7

What gives Christianity a cutting edge over other "religions"? Surely, it's built around two things.. 1) The Resurrection of Jesus Christ and 2) The power of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer.

Context: Elisha the prophet haven taken over from Elijah is now in charge of the School of prophets. The young men of the school are busily engaged in clearing some woodland in order to start a new building programme.

Suddenly, one of the young men while cutting down a tree unexpectedly loses the axe head. It flies through the air and falls into the nearby river.

It takes little imagination to see that his work could not go on without an axe head. The thing that made his contribution effective had gone.

We are involved in Kingdom business...Have we lost our "spiritual axe head"?
Lost our cutting edge perhaps? Are we less effective now in Christian ministry than we once were?
How sad it is to see a believer lose their edge and effectiveness.

The Axe did not belong to him: "it was borrowed".

Everything we have in Christian ministry is borrowed. Jesus said, "Without Me you can do nothing". All that we have comes from Him. We are simply stewards. One day we will give an account. Remember the Parable of the Talents.

Are you conscious now that you've lost something?

The young man confessed his lose. Many Christians live in denial. Live in a blame culture. Can we face up to the fact that on many occasions what begun in "the Spirit" ends in the "flesh"?

Elisha asked the young man, "Where did it fall?" show me the place.

Often God needs to take us back before He can take us forward.

The Holy Spirit brings all things back to our remembrance.

Story of Jonah.

Where did we lose our anointing? Was it through a wrong relationship?

Inappropriate sexual activity: putting our career first: unforgiveness; jealousy

"Where did it fall "...Invite someone to pray with you in the Cell.

Elisha took the branch of a tree and threw it into the river.

"And immediately the iron began to swim". An absolute miracle. Truly supernatural.

God used a piece of wood to recover that which was lost in Adam i.e. the Cross. It's the power of God in action.

The axe head is back within sight and reach.

God wants to give you back what you once lost. Reach out by faith now and receive it again.

Don't become separated from God. Stay in relationship with Him.

Beware that the Devil strikes when we are busy.

The Anointing of the Holy Spirit on your life is crucial. They that are in the flesh cannot God.

Ask God tonight for a greater passion for prayer: an increased appetite for His Word: an opening to

share your faith; to be used in healing: for spiritual discernment and wisdom.

God wants to break the addiction of mediocrity. Pray that God will give us “cutting edge” people.

Paul Howells
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