

## **DON'T LOSE YOUR HEAD!**

**TEXT:** *2 Kings 6:1-6 And the sons of the prophets said unto Elisha, Behold now, the place where we dwell with thee is too strait for us. 2 Let us go, we pray thee, unto Jordan, and take thence every man a beam, and let us make us a place there, where we may dwell. And he answered, Go ye. 3 And one said, Be content, I pray thee, and go with thy servants. And he answered, I will go. 4 So he went with them. And when they came to Jordan, they cut down wood. 5 But as one was felling a beam, the axe head fell into the water: and he cried, and said, Alas, master! for it was borrowed. 6 And the man of God said, Where fell it? And he shewed him the place. And he cut down a stick, and cast it in thither; and the iron did swim.*

**THESIS:** To show that God's work must be done with God's power.

**INTRO.:** A. Have you ever known a Christian who was a powerful **soul-winner**, a great and effective **bus worker**, a God-blessed **teacher**, a Spirit-filled **preacher**, a strong **witness**...who then lost his or her power or effectiveness? Could YOU be that person?

B. This O.T. story deals with that subject, I believe. Elisha was running a "school of the prophets." These young preacher boys were preparing to be used by God. They wanted to build a larger dormitory or more classroom space. They came to the man-of-God, Elisha, and asked him if they could go cut down the wood. (vv.1-3) He O.K.'d the project & went down with them to the woods. (v.4) One of the young men lost his axe head in a pool of water. (v.5)

C. There are several applications for us in this simple story. Obviously the axe head was where the power of the axe was located. ***When the man of God lost his axe head, he lost his power.*** With that in mind, let me admonish YOU... **DON'T LOSE YOUR HEAD!**

## **I. WOOD CAN'T CUT WOOD! V.5a**

### A. The Power Was in the Axe Head:

1. When a believer, who is only human, tries to do superhuman or supernatural work, he needs supernatural power.

**ILLUS.:** This man could have said: "I'll just keep swinging the axe handle...I can make just as much noise...nobody will notice the difference!" He could have kept swinging that axe handle, but nothing would be accomplished.

2. Christ is the Living Head of His Body, the Church and whenever any believer or church tries to do His work without His power, nothing will be accomplished.

### B. The Problem is Handles Without Heads:

1. We have far too many Christians without power!
2. Too often we try to do God's work without God's power!
3. We make lots of noise and stir up some dust, but we have no power!

**ILLUS.:** We have LOST OUR HEAD! Nothing is more ridiculous or pathetic than a man or woman of God attempting to do something for the Lord without seeking and getting His power!

When I was a boy I thought was great to cut off a chicken's head & turn the body loose and watch the chicken w/out a head run and fly around ("like a chicken with it's head cut off") – but it soon died. How pathetic. But no more so than to see someone who claims to be saved witnessing, teaching, soul-winning, preaching, or trying to live for God without their Head, their power, the Holy Spirit, controlling them.

## **II. HANDLES WITHOUT HEADS! V.5b**

### A. Have You Lost Your "Head" of Testimony?

1. Has your life-style neutralized your testimony and robbed you of power?

**ILLUS.:** Samson allowed Delilah cut off his hair speaking of his Nazarite vow and a symbol of his Spirit power. Then when she cried out ***"the Philistines are upon you, Samson"*** he woke out of his sleep and said ***"I will go out as at other times...but he wist not that the Lord was departed from him."*** **Judges 16:10**

2. Has your conversation, conduct or actions diminished your effectiveness?

**ILLUS.:** The devil is too smart to get most Christians to go to bars, night clubs, casinos, movies, rock concerts, etc., but if he can get you to lose your temper in front of the lost, have you mistreat your employees, your wife or your children or have you compromise your convictions, or get you to lie, cheat or steal – he can neutralize your testimony!

## B. Have You Lost Your “Head” of Witness?

**ILLUS.:** Peter blew it with the unsaved he might have won when he denied the Lord and even cursed to distance himself from the Savior. How sad to see a believer lose his opportunity to win the lost over some foolish incident. Like the axehead sinking in the pool, his witness is lost! I had a man on fire for the Lord who was a soul-winner, was faithful in every service, served on the Bus Ministry, even became a missionary to a foreign country, etc. His spirit was willing but his flesh was weak and he lost the axehead of his power with God over worldliness and is no longer used of God, is home from the mission field, and it is doubtful if he even goes to church anymore.

## C. Have You Lost Your “Head” of Power? (Victory)

1. The axehead was where the power was.
2. This man realized that the axehead wasn't his!
  - a. Anything we have of God's power is not ours, but is on loan to us.
  - b. He lost what was on loan; “use it or lose it!”
  - c. We need to take care of things on loan to us.

**ILLUS.:** It is my policy to attempt to always return to the owner what I borrow in as good or better condition than when I borrowed it. That needs to be our policy with the Lord and His blessed Holy Spirit and any power He loans to us.

David, when confessing his sin with Bathsheba and her husband, Uriah – cried out to the Lord, ***“Take not Thy Holy Spirit from me!” Ps. 51:11b***

### III. IRON CAN SWIM! Vv.6,7

#### A. Recovering the Lost Axe Head:

1. Even iron can swim if God's power is upon it!
  - a. God can do the impossible with the improbable!
  - b. God is in the business of resurrecting dead sinners and reviving lifeless saints!
2. God wants us to have our power back:
  - a. First we must know we have lost it.
  - b. Then we must admit it wasn't ours to begin with.
  - c. Then we must go to the source of power (here, the man-of-God; for us, the God-man!)
  - d. Then we must reach out and take what He restores! V.7 (He got back what he lost!)

#### B. Recovering the Lost Usefulness:

1. God will do what we cannot do; He will make the axehead swim, but he will NOT cut down the trees!
2. God will do His part when we are ready to admit our failure and ask to be restored.

**CONCL.:** What have YOU lost?

Do you feel the loss?

Are you ready to go to the Source of your lost power for a refilling?

To restore your testimony?

Your witness?

Your power?

Will you reach out right now and receive what He wants to restore?

**(Do you believe iron can swim?!)**

FBC – F.H., PA – (P.F.) 7/18/93

Dunbar B.C. – Dunbar, PA (L. Hummel) – 9/6/93

Berea Baptist Bible Inst. – Phila., PA (D. Pennachietti) – 11/10/93

**Victory B.C. – Ronoake Rapids, NC. (R. Madden) – 5/8/94**

NEBST – Preacher's Conf. – Downingtown, PA (Schindler) – 1/31/97

Bensalem B.C. – Bensalem, PA (Love) 7/23/98

Grace B.C. – Cody, WY (LoTurco) 10/11/98

NEBST – Penndel Campus - 11/23/98

Rio Grande Bible B. C. – Rio Grande, NJ (J. McLeod) 7/9/2000

Solid Rock B.C. – Atco, NJ (Clark) 5/9/02 (S.of S. Graduation)

Rural Pt. B.C., Mechanicsville, PA (Paul Lint) 4/20/03

Lighthouse B.C. – Lehighton, PA (Wolverton) – 11/6/05

Jersey Shore B.C. – Galloway, NJ (Erickson) – 2/15/09

1<sup>st</sup> B.C. of Easton – Easton, PA (Gilmore) – 3/1/09