

WEEK TWO: DIGGING DITCHES

You may already know how to dream big. Perhaps you're even ready to burn your plows and leave your old life behind. But to truly live a greater life, you still may not fully know how to start small. The story of Elisha commanding the king of Israel to dig ditches in the Desert of Edom illustrates the importance of our preparation for God's blessing in our lives.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES: 2 Kings 3:9-20

- I. "A great need can be a good thing if it leads you to a deeper dependency on God."
 - a. What happens when you find yourself stuck in the pursuit of your greater life?
 - i. There comes a time in your life where everything you thought you could do doesn't happen.
 - ii. The problem lies in knowing how to dream big, but not knowing how to start small.
 - b. "God doesn't want me to use him to meet my needs. He wants to use my needs to bring me to him."
 - i. When the king of Israel came to Elisha, his needs were prompting him to look for a solution. But Elisha pointed Him towards God, who would ultimately be their only solution.
- II. "God is not your shortcut. God is your only solution."
 - a. "If you're using God just to get the greater things He can bring that's not faith, its idolatry."
 - i. Great needs are often what drive us to God.
 - ii. But there are certain things that we must do to play our part in seeing God's miracles in our lives.
 - b. Inspiration vs. Implementation:
 - i. Many of us try to use God for sheer motivation or inspiration, but rarely progress to the point of actually putting into practice what God calls us to do.
- III. "Miracles are not magic tricks. Faith is not a lottery ticket. Faith is a work order."
 - a. "Transformation happens through participation in the purpose of God."
 - i. The kings came to Elisha looking for a miracle. But Elisha gave them a set of instructions.
 - b. "Everyone wants a calling until it calls."
 - i. Are you willing to play your part in the greater calling God has for your life?
- IV. "Dig a Ditch."
 - a. "Faith is making preparation for something that you can't perceive."
 - i. We can only assume that everyone in that valley dug all night long, likely not even finishing their irrigation system. But the next morning, water flowed.
 - ii. No matter how much faith it takes on our part, it will be an easy thing in the eyes of the Lord.
 - b. "If you dig the ditches, God will bring the rain."
 - i. What ditches is God calling you to dig?
 - ii. Are you available? Are you willing to dig?
 - iii. He's not waiting for you to be able. He's waiting for you to have the faith to get started.