

YOUR CUTTING EDGE 2 Kings 6:1-7

Int: The school of the prophets needed more room. Students came to Elisha with a plan to go to the “jungle of the Jordan” and cut timber to build a new school there. Elisha agreed, so off they went to work. As one student swung his borrowed ax, the head slipped from the handle and fell into the river. With that head went his usefulness. The best handle can cut no wood. He went to Elisha with the problem. The prophet cut a stick and tossed it into the water. And the iron head floated to the top. I cannot explain the mechanics but I believe the miracle! Elisha told the student to reach out and take it in hand. He did. And on went the work! The story suggests some vital questions.

HAVE YOU LOST YOUR CUTTING EDGE?

Losing his ax head meant losing his power for service. No matter how strong and sturdy, his handle could cut no wood. He felt the loss immediately. And his co-workers noticed it, too.

Have you lost the power of God on your life and service? If you have, you know it. So does everybody around.

WHERE DID YOU LOSE IT?

When he reported the lost ax head to Elisha, the prophet asked, “Where did you lose it?” The student showed the man of God “the place” where he lost it.

Deep down, every man knows where he lost God’s power. He can point to the exact spot on the map of his life where the head slipped from his handle. Ax heads lay lost in dozens of places. Was it swept away in the strong current of disobedience? Did it drop into the mire of sin, open or secret? Does it lay in the murky backwater of stale experience? Is it in the swampy bottoms of hurt feelings and resentment? Did it vanish into the swirling torrents of worry? Did it sink into the polluted streams of false doctrine and theological liberalism? Did it disappear into the sinkhole of an unforgiving spirit? Did it fall into the floodwaters of moral compromise?

The place to find lost power with God is right where you lost it!

WILL YOU TAKE IT AGAIN?

When the prophet threw a branch into the river at “the place” the man pointed out, the iron rose. What this anxious man feared gone forever was not only within sight but within reach. By God’s grace he could have power for service again if only he would take it. He did!

When God restores a cutting edge to people who have lost it, he uses the wood of a tree, a tree wet not with water but with blood, the blood of his dear son (1 Jn 1:9, 7).

Con: What would happen if every person in this room went out of here to live and labor in the power of God, filled with the Spirit, walking in the Spirit, working in the Spirit? What would it mean for this city? This state? This nation? This world?