

Title: Capturing the Captives

Scripture: II Kings 6: 18-23

Date: May 3, 2009

Place: Sovereign Grace Baptist Church of Princeton, New Jersey

## **II Kings 6: 8-17.**

**Psalm 68: 18: Thou hast ascended on high, thou hast led captivity captive: thou hast received gifts for men; yea, *for the rebellious also, that the LORD God might dwell among them.* 19: Blessed *be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation.* Selah. 20: *He that is our God is the God of salvation; and unto GOD the Lord belong the issues from death.***

Proposition: **The Lord Jesus Christ works in those he led captive at Calvary by leading them captive in the experience of mercy and grace.**

**II Kings 6: 18: And when they came down to him, Elisha prayed unto the LORD, and said, Smite this people, I pray thee, with blindness. And he smote them with blindness according to the word of Elisha.**

### **I. THE LORD JESUS CHRIST BLINDS THOSE HE SAVES**

A. The Man of God, Elisha--a type of Christ--Intercedes for the Spiritually Blind to be Smitten With Blindness.

If you have physical sight or you don't the Lord did it.

**Exodus 4:11: And the LORD said unto him, Who hath made man's mouth? or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? have not I the LORD?**

Likewise if you have spiritual sight it is because the Lord did it.

**Isaiah 43: 7: *Even every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him.* 8: Bring forth the blind people that have eyes, and the deaf that have ears. 9: Let all the nations be gathered together, and let the people be assembled: who among them can declare this, and shew us former things? let them bring forth their witnesses, that they may be justified: or let them hear, and say, *It is truth.***

When all sinners are born spiritually blind, why would the Lord blind us? A man born blind from birth has no idea what sight is. So until Christ the Light reveals himself, the natural man thinks darkness is light. Until God reveals the difference, we will even fight tooth and nail, brag and boast calling our blindness and our ignorance sight and wisdom.

Believer, remember how we would listen to a gospel message then arrogantly, conceitedly boast that we are far too wise to be duped into believing such absurdity. We

heard, "The word of the Lord." The very Lord who gave us the natural ear to hear, the natural eye to read his word, the very Lord who gave us the breath of life is the Lord whom we used that breath to curse. We said, "No, God!" And that was our definition of wisdom and of sight.

That is God's definition, NOT OF A WISE MAN, NOT OF A MAN WHO CAN SEE, but of a fool! **Psalm 14: 1:** <<To the chief Musician, A *Psalm* of David.>> **The fool hath said in his heart, *There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good.* 2: The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God. 3: They are all gone aside, they are *all* together become filthy: *there is none that doeth good, no, not one.* 4: Have all the workers of iniquity no knowledge? who eat up my people *as they eat bread, and call not upon the LORD.* 5: There were they in great fear: for God *is* in the generation of the righteous. 6: Ye have shamed the counsel of the poor, because the LORD *is* his refuge. 7: Oh that the salvation of Israel *were come out of Zion!* when the LORD bringeth back the captivity of his people, Jacob shall rejoice, *and* Israel shall be glad.**

**Proverbs 14: 16:** A wise *man* feareth, and departeth from evil: but the fool rageth, and is confident.

**The Blind Man:** The Lord Jesus came to a blind man one day. But before he gave him sight, he covered the blind man's eyes, **John 9: 6:** **When he had thus spoken, he spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and he anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay.** But by covering his eyes he was actually applying the ointment needed to give him sight.

So like these Syrians, we who now see were enemies in our minds by wicked works—we considered the Prince of Life as our worst enemy. So the Lord began to make what we naturally deemed as sight and wisdom, to be darkness and ignorance. Now, unknowingly we begin to be led by the Lord.

**II Kings 6: 19:** **And Elisha said unto them, *This is not the way, neither is this the city: follow me, and I will bring you to the man whom ye seek.***

**B. This Is Not The Way.**

**Proverbs 16: 25:** **There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof *are* the ways of death. 26: He that laboureth laboureth for himself; for his mouth craveth it of him.**

The Syrians were seeking to kill the man of God because he was preventing them and their people and their king from going THEIR way. Christ the Way prevented us from having our way which our mouth craved as we labored to put him from us. As sincere as

men are they have no idea that their way is not the way until Christ Jesus the Man of God says, "This is not the way." But through the preaching of the gospel, the Lord began to say to us, "Your way is not the way!"

### C. Neither Is This The City

For some of us our city of refuge was rejecting all things to do with those ignorant church folks—out of sight out of mind—we had no idea who was doing it but through some means of grace the Lord Jesus began saying to us, "This is not the city!"

For others the city of refuge was the outward motions of religion—we kept laboring and laboring for ourselves, one fig leaf upon another, we tried to hide ourselves behind the trees of great religious ceremony, we loved us some "feel good religion"—we didn't know it was Christ doing it or exactly what he was doing but we began to hear some one saying in our hearts, "This is not the city!"

### D. The Lord Took Us Out Of Our Way and Took Us a Strange Way

**II Kings 6: 19: And Elisha said unto them, This is not the way, neither is this the city: Follow me, and I will bring you to the man whom ye seek. 19: But he led them to Samaria.**

What is the Man of God doing? **Ezekiel 20: 33: As I live, saith the Lord GOD, surely with a mighty hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with fury poured out, will I rule over you: 34: And I will bring you out from the people, and will gather you out of the countries wherein ye are scattered, with a mighty hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with fury poured out. 35: And I will bring you into the wilderness of the people, and there will I plead with you face to face. 36: Like as I pleaded with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so will I plead with you, saith the Lord GOD. 37: And I will cause you to pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant:**

**Examples: Mark 7:33: And he took him aside from the multitude, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spit, and touched his tongue;**

**Mark 8:23: And he took the blind man by the hand, and led him out of the town; and when he had spit on his eyes, and put his hands upon him, he asked him if he saw ought.**

Brethren, as we ran madly in our blind, ignorant, insistence upon having hell as our eternal habitation, the best thing, though it seemed bitter at the time, though it seems bitter now in the hours of chastening, the best thing for us is that Christ stopped us. **Romans 8:7: Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. 8: So then they that are in the flesh cannot**

please God. 9: But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

Illustration: The Doberman

## II. THE LORD JESUS CHRIST OPENS OUR EYES.

II Kings 6: 20: And it came to pass, when they were come into Samaria, that Elisha said, LORD, open the eyes of these *men*, that they may see. And the LORD opened their eyes, and they saw; and, behold, *they were* in the midst of Samaria.

### A. The Lord Opens Our Eyes To Experience Mercy

The Lord opened their eyes and they saw were captured.

II Kings 6: 21 And the king of Israel said unto Elisha, when he saw them, My father, shall I smite *them*? shall I smite *them*? 22: And he answered, Thou shalt not smite *them*: wouldest thou smite those whom thou hast taken captive with thy sword and with thy bow? The key to understanding this verse is in what is said here: wouldest thou smite those whom thou hast taken captive with thy sword and with thy bow?

Illustration: Guantanamo Bay have been mistreated. If they have, it is absolutely wrong! The glory of Christ Jesus the Lord declares it is wrong!

Justice says nothing concerning those who are mistreated or die on the battle field--because they are yet fighting. But justice demands that those taken out of the battle--the captive-- shall not be mistreated. **Thou shalt not smite *them*: wouldest thou smite those whom thou hast taken captive with thy sword and with thy bow?"** If you would not with your carnal weapons, how much more shall mercy be shown to those who have been captured by the power and might of the Spirit of Christ!

Mercy is God withholding from us what we deserved. **Put yourself in the place of the Syrians.** If you are the Syrians, you behold that your captor has shown you great mercy! THIS IS EXACTLY WHERE CHRIST THE LORD BRINGS EVERY SINNER WHOM HE SHOWS MERCY. HOW ELSE ARE YOU GOING TO EXPERIENCE MERCY FIRST HAND!

In Christ Jesus the justice we deserved has been withheld from us. Everything that the law of Moses demanded of the Jews who were under that covenant, was God's way of magnifying what God requires of his elect people and why God rejected the first Adam and all men in him when Adam transgressed. By the same token the law of Moses is God way of proclaiming why the second Adam, Christ Jesus the Lord, is accepted by God and why all those who believe on him are accepted of God.

As long as we stand in the first Adam, we are yet on the battle field doing battle against God. Christ Jesus has every right to smite us if we come into final judgment yet fighting. But when Christ has led us off the battlefield, caused us to behold that he has--LED CAPTIVITY CAPTIVE--now, because of he bore the justice of God on your behalf, that same justice demands, " **Thou shalt not smite *them*.**" **OH THANK GOD HE IS HOLY!** When a sinner is made to see his enemies round about him, and Christ withholds from him what he deserves, then we experience the revelation of mercy! God withholding from us what we deserve.

B. Then The Lord Teaches Us By Experience What Grace Is--Grace is God giving us what we do not deserve.

**II Kings 6: 22: And he answered, Thou shalt not smite *them*: wouldest thou smite those whom thou hast taken captive with thy sword and with thy bow? set bread and water before them, that they may eat and drink, and go to their master.**

Not only do we behold that in Christ, God has withheld the justice we deserved in his great mercy toward us but he also reveals that he has freely given us everything we do not deserve. In Christ he has made us the very righteousness of God. Grace says to us, "I not only took away your guilt and restored you to the innocence of Adam in the garden, but I have made you eternally righteous, accepted of God, so that you can never again be lost, never come into the wrath of God—you have eternal life!"

Mercy and grace through righteousness is the double reward God gave us in place of our sin.

**Isaiah 40: 2: Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the LORD'S hand double for all her sins.**

**Isaiah 61:7: For your shame *ye shall have* double; and *for* confusion they shall rejoice in their portion: therefore in their land they shall possess the double: everlasting joy shall be unto them.**

**Job 42:10: And the LORD turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends: also the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before.**

**Romans 5: 20:...where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: 21: That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.**

So we read in:

**II Kings 6: 23: And he prepared great provision for them:**

This is when Christ became Life to you Sinner—Bread from heaven and the Water of Life, our Great Provision—A great provision was set before, continues to be set before and shall continue to be set before for all eternity and that means you do nothing but sit down and eat (Read **Ephesians 1**)

**Ezekiel 34:13: And I will bring them out from the people, and gather them from the countries, and will bring them to their own land, and feed them upon the mountains of Israel by the rivers, and in all the inhabited places of the country. 14: I will feed them in a good pasture, and upon the high mountains of Israel shall their fold be: there shall they lie in a good fold, and *in* a fat pasture shall they feed upon the mountains of Israel.**

### **III. THE EFFECTUAL, IRRESISTABLE RESULT OF GOD'S GRACE IS PEACE WITH GOD.**

A. Brings this down to where we are: You and I who are sinners saved by grace were these Syrians.

We showed nothing but hatred for Christ—but he was merciful to us though we were his enemies. We hungered and he gave us Christ the Bread. We thirsted and he gave us the Water of Life. In doing so he heaped the coals of his tender mercy and grace upon our heads

What happened when Christ worked this in you?

**V23: and when they had eaten and drunk, he sent them away, and they went to their master.**

Made to see my sin I was arrested  
His righteousness he manifested  
On my behalf he fulfilled the law  
Justified me on the cross  
In prison sin, death and hell had a chain on me  
Now I'm Free, I'm Free, Because Christ arrested me!

One more thing: What shall his name be called? His name shall be called, the Prince of Peace!

**II Kings 6: 23:...So the bands of Syria came no more into the land of Israel.**  
(Now read **Psalms 68: 18-20** again)

**Isaiah: 55: 8: For my thoughts *are* not your thoughts, neither *are* your ways my ways, saith the LORD. 9: For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.**

**Psalms 92:5: O LORD, how great are thy works! *and* thy thoughts are very deep.**

