



SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

EAST ABBOTSFORD CAMPUS

FEBRUARY 23, 2020

INFO AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Northview is running many different courses this winter/spring. Those include: **Financial Basics 104: Understanding Taxes:** Tuesday, March 3rd; 7pm
More information and to register see: northview.org/courses
- **Men's Retreat:** April 3-5th. Cost: \$200. Location: Rockridge Canyon.
Register online: northview.org/men.
- Parents, save the date! There is a Northview-wide **Parenting Conference** happening April 24-25 at the Downes Road Campus. More information to come!
- **SELAH:** March 1st | 5:30-7:00pm (DR Campus). Selah is an evening of extended worship for engaging with God and one another in song and prayer.
- Sign up for Northview's Newsletter at northview.org to never miss another event.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray for the ACS renovation/ construction project (for health, safety, speed, etc.)
- Pray for the DR Campus Worship Centre capital campaign (that money would be raised quickly!)
- Pray for opportunities for us to engage our neighbours, coworkers, and other people we are connected with in gospel conversations
- Pray for people who live in east Abbotsford to have a hunger for God and good news, and that they would hear it through our campus and people

LEADER NOTES

Suggested Timing for a 2 hour meeting:

Connection: 30 Minutes (visiting / snacks / announcements / ice breakers)

Content: 30 Minutes (Observation and Interpretation questions):

Commission: 10-15 minutes (Application questions)

Care: 15-30 minutes (Sharing and Prayer)

Connection: 15-30 minutes (visiting / snacks)

LEADING SERMON-BASED DISCUSSIONS:

- Read the scripture passage(s) together as a group.
- Direct people back to the text if they are going on rabbit trails or talking about opinions and speculation, by asking, "Where do you see that in the text? What answer does the text provide for that question?"
- As you transition to prayer time, pray through the issues and ideas that the text brought up.

RESOURCES FOR 1 & 2 KINGS

Commentaries:

Paul House, *1 & 2 Kings - New American Commentary*

Iain Provan, *1 & 2 Kings - Understanding the Bible*

Donald Wiseman, *1 & 2 Kings: An Introduction and Commentary*

Tyndale Old Testament Commentary

August H. Konkel, *1 & 2 Kings*

(The NIV Application Commentary)

Gavin Ortlund, *1 & 2 Kings: A 12-week Study*
(Knowing the Bible)

The Gospel Coalition Course:

God's Big Picture. Unit 5: The Partial Kingdom: Place and King

www.thegospelcoalition.org/course/gods-big-picture-tracing-storyline-bible

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Observation

This section is aimed at helping people observe the details of the text: what is written, what words or ideas are repeated and emphasized, the text's structure and how this text fits into the wider context of the book of Romans.

1. Read 2 Kings 2:15-25.
2. How do the "company of the prophets" react when Elisha approaches?
They meet him and bow acknowledging that the Spirit of Elijah is on him (v15) thereby acknowledging he is Elijah's successor.
They also ask to go find Elijah (v16).
3. How did the City of Jericho respond to Elisha's presence?
They are asking for help by bringing the bad water and unfruitful land to the prophet's attention (v19).
4. How do the young men from Bethel respond to Elijah?
Mock him saying "go up baldy" (v23) ¹

Interpretation

This section is aimed at linking the current text to other texts or to the bigger biblical narrative. If you are running out of time, feel free to skip this section.

1. a. Read Joshua 6:26-27.
Why is the water in Jericho bad?
It the result of being cursed.
b. Read Deuteronomy 28:15-18.
What is the reason the water and land would be cursed?
If the people didn't follow the commands this would be the result.
c. In 2 Kings 2:19-22, what does this reversal of the curse display about God?
God is gracious to offer salvation for those in Jericho

2. a. Read 2 Kings 2:1.
In light of this, what might the young men mean by saying "go up baldy"?
They are taunting him that his master Elijah is gone and they want Elisha to leave as well.
b. Read 1 Kings 12:28-29.
How does this help us understand how Bethel has formed these boys' understanding?
Historically the town was a center for idol worship. Rejecting God is nothing new for this city.
c. In 2 Kings 2:22-15, what does this consequence display about God?
He judges those who spurn His name.
3. Read Romans 11:17-22.
How does what Paul writes about Israel and the Gentiles in verse 22 reflect the same realities of the story of Jericho's water and the judgement on the young men?
Both God's kindness and sternness are highlighted.

Application

This section is aimed at helping people apply what we have read in the text to our lives. It is intended to foster more open-ended discussion as people connect the text to their everyday life, and reflect on how it changes the way they think and act.

1. How does the grace displayed in the reversal of the curse on Jericho's water speak to Christ's redemptive work? How does this encourage you?
ie. All were cursed through Adam and the Fall, all have salvation offered to them.
2. How does our view of the holiness of God affect our view of His judgment and our sin?
ie. The holier we see God to be, the more aware we are of the severity of our sin - we realize judgement is deserved.
3. When we share Christ with others in our daily lives, how can we balance sharing both the salvation and judgment of God?
Various Answers

¹ Paul R. House, 1, 2 Kings, vol. 8, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1995), 260.

"The specific insult cast at Elijah is, "Go on up, you baldhead," a phrase that may refer to some physical marking Elisha took on as a prophet rather than to a literal baldness. If this was the case, the insult was directed specifically at Elisha as a prophet and therefore at the Lord whom he represented.