

Title: GOD IS ALWAYS MORE, 2 KINGS 6:8-23.
(Chatham, NJ; 03/23/08, AM) [Pd – Topical: fixed word outline]

Theme: Because of the resurrection we are assured that God can do much more than we can ask or imagine.

Purpose: To develop confidence in the hearers by looking at several of the seemingly impossible situations that God's followers have been delivered from because God was more powerful than the difficulty facing them.

Introduction:

1. The Resurrection is not just a once-a-year event.
2. New life happens everyday.
3. Living the resurrected life is the essence of the Christian experience, John 3:3-5.
4. God's power for this reaches beyond human power.
5. Bible stories reveal this and allow us to believe the possibilities for us.

I. More of us than of them, 1 Kings 6:8-23.

- I believe it was the soldiers in Patton's army who were so certain of victory they coined the statement, "They've got us surrounded...the poor devils."
- Elisha always knew the movements of the Syrian army, 6-11.
- This was an early scandal like Bill Belichick's: it was as if he were stealing his signals.
- Elisha, however, had help from the Lord, 12-14.
- The king of Syria attempted to seize him.
- When Elisha's servant voiced his concern, he was merely assessing the situation correctly from a human point of view: the city was surrounded. He saw that there weren't enough men to fight, and he feared certain defeat.
- Elisha utters his famous statement in vs. 16. "More of us..."
- With God on our side, there is always more.
- The servant received a vision of God's chariots of fire surrounding Elisha. There was no need to fear.
- God not only protects Elisha but he also ends the war, at least temporarily, between Syria and Samaria (23).
- The more available to the Christian comes from our faith in God's love.

Prayer:

Song:

II. More than conquerors, Romans 8:37.

- Romans 8 is a collection of memorable questions.
- "If God is for us, who can be against us?" (31)
- "He who did not spare his own son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?"(32)
- "Who shall bring any charge against God's elect?" (33)
- "Who shall separate us from the love of God?" (35)
- The reason for good answers to these is Jesus Christ, died, resurrected, and seated at the right hand of God. (34)

- Thus, we are *more* than conquerors.
- Though we endure suffering and struggle, none of this can come between us and the love of God in Christ (38-39).
- He will always be there for us. He is on our side.

Prayer:

Song:

III. More than we can ask, Ephesians 3:20.

- Worried about accomplishing what God intends for you?
- Realize the power at work within you!
- It can accomplish more than you ask or imagine.
- Elisha's story stimulates my imagination, but God can do *more*.
- The power of God for us is the same power he used to raise Jesus from the dead, Ephesians 1:19-20.
- Every time you are discouraged, remember...God can do *more*.
- Every time you struggle, remember...God can do *more*.
- Every time life takes a wrong turn, remember...God can do *more*.
- Today we rejoice in the power of that resurrection!
- By giving us new life, hope, and free access to God we live with the expectation and blessing that being on God's side is always more.

Prayer:

Song: