



## I. REVIEW/INTRO

### A. About Face series

**Ephesians 6:14 (WNT) <sup>13</sup> Therefore put on the complete armour of God, so that you may be able to stand your ground on the day of battle, and, having fought to the end, to remain victors on the field.**

- CSI of 2 Kings 3

### **The Northern Kingdom (Israel) and Southern Kingdom (Judah)**

**Northern – King Jehoram – evil – Baal worshippers**

**Southern – King Jehoshaphat**

**Trouble the king of the Moabites refused to pay taxes**

### B. Things happen but it's more important how we respond to what happens

**2 Kings 3:6-8 (NKJV) <sup>6</sup> So King Jehoram went out of Samaria at that time and mustered all Israel. <sup>7</sup> Then he went and sent to Jehoshaphat king of Judah, saying, "The king of Moab has rebelled against me. Will you go with me to fight against Moab?" And he said, "I will go up; I *am* as you *are*, my people as your people, my horses as your horses." <sup>8</sup> Then he said, "Which way shall we go up?" And he answered, "By way of the Wilderness of Edom."**

- When we encounter trouble we think that more = better
- It's more important to have the right people with you
- Don't make God your last option

### C. Their great plan and collective wisdom brings them to a big problem

**2 Kings 3:9-10 (NKJV) <sup>9</sup> So the king of Israel went with the king of Judah and the king of Edom, and they marched on that roundabout route seven days; and there was no water for the army, nor for the animals that followed them. <sup>10</sup> And the king of Israel said, "Alas! For the Lord has called these three kings together to deliver them into the hand of Moab."**

### D. Human tendency – after we go our way and have trouble – Then we blame God!

**What we really are going to see is a picture of the mercy of God**

**Grace is when I get what I don't deserve (I don't deserve God's favor)**

**Mercy is when I don't get what I deserve (I deserve judgment – but I get salvation)**

## II. LET'S ASK GOD!

**2 Kings 3:11-12 (NKJV) <sup>11</sup> But Jehoshaphat said, "*Is there* no prophet of the Lord here, that we may inquire of the Lord by him?" So one of the servants of the king of Israel answered and said, "Elisha the son of Shaphat *is* here, who poured water on the hands of Elijah." <sup>12</sup> And Jehoshaphat said, "The word of the Lord is with him." So the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat and the king of Edom went down to him.**



A. A great place for an “I told you so”

**Principle 5 – If you’re faithful to serve God, others will be blessed because you know God.**

**1. The question gets asked – why should I keep serving God?**

- There will be people around you that will be blessed just because you’re around.

B. The Prophet gets pretty blunt with the kings

**2 Kings 3:13-14 (NKJV)** <sup>13</sup> Then Elisha said to the king of Israel, “What have I to do with you? Go to the prophets of your father and the prophets of your mother.” But the king of Israel said to him, “No, for the Lord has called these three kings *together* to deliver them into the hand of Moab.” <sup>14</sup> And Elisha said, “As the Lord of hosts lives, before whom I stand, surely were it not that I regard the presence of Jehoshaphat king of Judah, I would not look at you, nor see you.

- They all get a miracle because one guy knows how to get to God

C. When there are difficult situations in life this is key

**2 Kings 3:15 (NKJV)** But now bring me a musician.” Then it happened, when the musician played, that the hand of the Lord came upon him.

**Principle 6 – God will speak but you have tune in**

**Important Point** – we often think that everything has to be just right for a miracle – we have to live just right, fast and pray, have the right setting and right music. But in this story up until this point – everything has been wrong, the wrong place, people, theology and God is still going to do a miracle

**You really only need two things for there to be a miracle**

- **One – you need a problem**
- **Two – you need someone who knows God**

### **III. GOD ANSWERS THEIR PRAYER!**

A. You won’t get a miracle without a ditch

**2 Kings 3:16 (NKJV)** <sup>16</sup> And he said, “Thus says the Lord: ‘Make this valley full of ditches.’”

**Principle # 7 – many times we miss a miracle because they don’t look like we think they should.**

- By the way while you’re digging the ditch – nothing is going to happen

**2 Kings 3:17 (NKJV)** <sup>17</sup> For thus says the Lord: ‘You shall not see wind, nor shall you see rain; yet that valley shall be filled with water, so that you, your cattle, and your animals may drink.’”



People are faced with digging ditches all the time

- Digging a ditch looks like getting up and going to church, attending a small group, it looks like serving the Lord and others when you're too busy
- What you're feeling or not feeling doesn't determine if God is working or not

B. God wants to do more than help you survive

1. Their most pressing need is water – but God has something better

**Ephesians 3:20 (NKJV) <sup>20</sup> Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,**

2. Now we're about to see what God was seeing

**2 Kings 3:18-19 (NKJV) <sup>18</sup> And this is a simple matter in the sight of the Lord; He will also deliver the Moabites into your hand. <sup>19</sup> Also you shall attack every fortified city and every choice city, and shall cut down every good tree, and stop up every spring of water, and ruin every good piece of land with stones."**

#### **IV. CONCLUSION – THEY SAW THE SIGN BUT MISSED THE POINT**

A. The transcending truth of all miracles

The Principle is that God is concerned about natural events that surround your life, but He's more concerned that you learn the spiritual lessons.

- The lessons that God would have liked them to learn
  - o God is enough
  - o Surround yourself with the right people
  - o Walk with God daily
  - o Involve God on the front end so you don't have to have a miracle on the back end
  - o Keep serving God even if no one else does
  - o You'll have some chaotic time so learn to tune in to God
  - o Keep digging ditches even when you don't think anything is happening

B. Many think if I saw a miracle I'll believe

**2 Kings 3:27 (NKJV) <sup>27</sup> Then he took his eldest son who would have reigned in his place, and offered him as a burnt offering upon the wall; and there was great indignation against Israel So they departed from him and returned to *their own* land.**

C. Returning to their own land is a way of saying - everything went back to normal