

Going Deeper

Your weekly guide to understanding God with others

Anointed - Part 7

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Introduction

In the final story of Elisha before his death, we read that God gives an anointing and blessing to an ungodly king (through Elisha) in order for the king to defeat the enemies of Israel. This God-given victory is symbolised through the anointing of an arrow that the king held in his hand. Through this story we see that God's sovereignty rules far beyond the life span of one King or one generation, and that God can use even an ungodly leader to achieve His plan. Beyond our current challenges, God has a plan that spans all generations. Our part may simply be to let God anoint and release the 'arrows' we are holding, for His ultimate glory.

Bible Passage

Reading: 2 Kings 13:10-20

Discussion

1. God blessed an ungodly ruler to defeat Israel's enemies (2 Kings 13). How does this impact how you see God at work in our political system today? How seriously do we take the command to pray for our leaders, regardless of which political party they belong to?
2. Read 2 Kings 13:15-17. Elisha commanded the king to shoot the arrow, and then proclaimed it to be the Lord's arrow after he had done so. What does this action say to you? How does this story reflect anointing and obedience?
3. In contrast to this, Elisha put his hand over the king's hand and proclaimed a blessing upon him before he shot the arrow. The impartation preceded the release. What is in your hand that you need to allow God to bless, and then release?

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4. An arrow will only serve its purpose once it is released from the archer's hand. Why might we be afraid to release what God has put in our hands? What can be the consequences when we hold on and do not let go?
5. "Without anointing and release our talent is nothing more than unmet potential." Do you agree or disagree with this statement? What might this look like for you?

Respond

God gives all of us talents and gifts, as well as access to everyday items. If we are willing to obediently release them for His glory, He may anoint and bless them for His ultimate purpose. What do you have that God is calling you to devote to Him and release for His purpose? Take a moment now to hand this over to Him.