

1. This morning we are going to continue with our series that begins in the book of 2 Kings chapter 6.
2. It is the story of the siege of a city called Samaria.
3. You may remember that a siege is normally a military campaign where an army surrounds a town or city, cutting that city off from all help getting in and any escape getting out.
4. The purpose for cutting off the city is so the residents of that city will give up in defeat.
5. Each week we have been making the comparison between this story, and the events that are going on in our world today.
6. Cut off seems to be a perfect word to describe how I know I am feeling, and how I suspect many others do as well.
7. I read an article this week that asked the question, are we experiencing social distancing fatigue? Well I know for sure I am.
8. I'd just like to give up and think about something else for a while.
9. As we have been following along in the story of the siege of Samaria, our main question has been, **Are we trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ for our provision and for our protection?**
10. Is our trust in something or someone else, or are we depending and hoping in the Lord?
11. There are several reasons why that matters.
12. In week one we said that valuing anything or anyone else over the Lord is foolish because the value of things change.
13. What we may think is vital today may be useless tomorrow. And what we think is useless today may be vital tomorrow. Knowing for sure is a guessing game.
14. But our God is the same yesterday, today, and forever. He does not change. He is constant and true and as a result can be counted on.
15. Last week we said that trusting in anyone besides the Lord causes us to do irrational and foolish things.
16. When circumstances change, which they can, do, and do quite often, if our trust is in anyone but the Lord it immediately leads to desperation and desperation leads to irrational behavior.

17. The two women who eat one child but not the other.
18. Then we said last week, in the case of the king of Israel, his next response was to want to blame someone.
19. As humans we are no different. Since the beginning of the human race, our natural tendency is to not take responsibility, and instead find someone else to blame.
20. The king blamed Elisha.
21. The problem with blame is that it is impossible to have victory in your future, and at the same time experience victory.
22. Blame is in and of itself past focused. They did this. And if they hadn't done that I wouldn't be where I am today.
23. Faith however is future focused. This may be where I am today, but I trust in a God who already has my future deliverance figured out.
24. My future is bright because my savior is already there.
25. Stop blaming others. Stop blaming yourself.

**TEXT:** **2 Kings 6:32-33** Now Elisha was sitting in his house, and the elders were sitting with him. The king sent a messenger ahead, but before he arrived, Elisha said to the elders, "Don't you see how this murderer is sending someone to cut off my head? Look, when the messenger comes, shut the door and hold it shut against him. Is not the sound of his master's footsteps behind him?" **33** While he was still talking to them, the messenger came down to him. The king said, "This disaster is from the LORD. Why should I wait for the LORD any longer?"

**2 Kings 7:1-2** Elisha replied, "Hear the word of the LORD. This is what the LORD says: About this time tomorrow, a seah of the finest flour will sell for a shekel and two seahs of barley for a shekel at the gate of Samaria." **2** The officer on whose arm the king was leaning said to the man of God, "Look, even if the LORD should open the floodgates of the heavens, could this happen?" "You will see it with your own eyes," answered Elisha, "but you will not eat any of it!"

**TITLE:** **Who, What, When, Where, & How?**

**INTRO:**

1. So, after blaming Elisha for the situation they are in, the king of Israel sends a messenger to the home of Elisha.
2. And when the messenger arrives, we discover that not only is the king blaming Elisha, but now his blame has reached even to God.
3. **2 Kings 6:33** While he was still talking to them, the messenger came down to

him. The king said, "This disaster is from the LORD. Why should I wait for the LORD any longer?"

4. What we find is that **blaming others nearly always leads to blaming God.**

5. God this is your fault. You are the one causing me this trouble.

6. Here is the problem with this logic. It just simply wasn't the truth.

7. The city of Samaria had been surrounded and cut off from the outside world not because God was a mean God that just wanted his people to suffer.

8. The city had been surrounded and cut off because the people of Israel were simply reaping what they had sown.

9. For hundreds of years, through dozens of prophets, God had warned his people over and over again.

10. If you sin against me. If you reject me. If you choose to trust in yourself rather than trusting in me, this is what will happen.

11. And one of the things God had foretold would happen is that the people of Israel would be defeated by their enemies.

12. So, what happened? Israel trusted in themselves. They trusted in idols. They trusted in anything and everything besides the Lord.

13. And the result was that God's promises came true.

14. The blame was with the children of Israel not the Lord.

15. Now. I am not trying to say that Covid-19 is punishment for some certain sin on some certain people.

16. I'm not qualified enough to make those statements. What I am qualified enough to proclaim however, is that God is not a mean God just looking for an excuse to send judgment and punishment on His people.

17. All throughout the bible we find that the very last thing God wants to do is send judgment and punishment.

18. The very first thing he wants to do is to bless and prosper us.

19. The very first thing he wants to do is give good gifts to his children.

20. Our heavenly father is the most loving, giving, sacrificing being that there is in the universe.

21. Whatever the situation, blaming God will not get you anywhere.

22. Trusting in the Lord is the only action that will bring you deliverance and victory. Period. End of story.
23. Jesus is the solution to your situation. He is the answer to your prayers. He is the light in your darkness. He is the provision for your lack. He is everything you will ever need.
24. And **The key to unlocking who He is, is to trust Him.**
25. There we go again.
26. By now you may be thinking, well I'm going to stop listening to Pastor Jeff because this is the third week in a row and basically, he has said the same thing every week. Trust in the Lord.
27. You are right. I have said basically the same thing every week because that simple little message is the key to your future.
28. I love the words of the nearly 150-year-old hymn written by John Sammis. Trust and obey.
29. Trust and obey, For there's no other way To be happy in Jesus,  
But to trust and obey.
30. So, if you have that message I am going to move on.
31. My message today answers this question. What is trusting in the Lord like?
32. The beginning place to trusting in the Lord is in understanding that **Very rarely does God give you victory by telling you the who, what, when, where, and how.**
33. Very rarely does God tell you upfront who will bring the victory. What that victory will look like. When that victory will occur. Where that victory will occur. And how that victory will occur.
34. Most of the time the only thing the Lord assures us of is that he will in fact bring us victory.
35. But we must know that that truth rubs our human way of thinking the wrong way.
36. Accepting that truth goes against the grain of our sinful nature.
37. It is part of our human, sinful nature to want to know who, what, when, where, and how.
38. **2 Kings 6:33** While he was still talking to them, the messenger came down to him. The king said, "This disaster is from the LORD. Why should I wait for the LORD any longer?"

39. The message from the king to Elisha gives us great insight into his struggle.
40. Why should I wait for the Lord any longer?
41. I thought God would have answered already. I thought God would have done something by now. I thought God would have sent someone to rescue us by now. And I don't mind telling you I'm tired of waiting.
42. Go with me now to the next chapter. **2 Kings 7:1** Elisha replied, "Hear the word of the LORD. This is what the LORD says: About this time tomorrow, a seah of the finest flour will sell for a shekel and two seahs of barley for a shekel at the gate of Samaria."
43. Notice with me that Elisha did not rebuke the messenger, nor did he rebuke the king for struggling with the who, what, when, where & how.
44. I love that. Mainly because it gives me hope for us.
45. We serve a loving father who knows that we struggle, and he isn't angry or perturbed or turned off by our struggle.
46. He doesn't belittle or berate us because we struggle. But notice what else he doesn't do. He doesn't answer the questions we are asking.
47. Watch this. This is so vitally important to our having victory in our daily walk with the Lord.
48. The problem is not that God doesn't speak to us. The problem is that generally what he says to us, we don't want to hear.
49. Elisha proclaims. Here the word of the Lord. This is what the Lord says. About this time tomorrow flour will sell for pennies and barley seed will sell for pennies.
50. In other words, the word of the Lord is that by this time tomorrow I will change your circumstances. Things will be different. The pain and heartache you are experiencing right now will be alleviated.
51. God responded by telling them that he would. But he did not respond to them by telling them the who, what, when, where, or how.
52. His response was simply. I will.
53. Why? Why doesn't God give us the who, what, when, where & how? Well, there are many reasons. But the greatest reason of them all is that knowing the who, what, when, where & how doesn't require

faith.

54. If we knew the who, what, when, where & how we wouldn't need God and we wouldn't need to trust Him.
55. What God normally gives us is the promise **that** he will, not all the intimate details.
56. And accepting that truth is vitally important. It is so important that our future depends on it.
57. Listen to the response of the officer who is closest to the king. **2 Kings 7:2** The officer on whose arm the king was leaning said to the man of God, "Look, even if the LORD should open the floodgates of the heavens, could this happen?" "You will see it with your own eyes," answered Elisha, "but you will not eat any of it!"
58. The officer refused to let go of the how. In his mind how God would ever make this happen didn't make logical sense.
59. And as a result, he missed the promise because he became consumed by how the promise would become a reality.
60. You see, the who, what, when, where & how is not our concern.
61. The who, what, when, where & how is God's concern.
62. Our only concern is to believe **that** he will. Our only concern is to believe that God's promises are true.

#### Conclusion:

1. Now, I know that rubs us the wrong way. I know that truth is totally against how we are wired. But it is still the truth whether we like it or not.
2. And I beg you not to reject it because it rubs you the wrong way.
3. Somebody listening to me today needs God to intervene. You need a miracle. You are trusting in God to fulfill a promise he has made to you.
4. I beg you. Let go of the who, what, when, where & how, and instead cling to, hold on to, grab ahold of the promise **that** he will, and let that be enough.
5. Why Pastor? Why would I ever do that? Let me tell you why.
6. Because let's suppose you have this need, this miracle, this desire that you are longing for, but you take God completely out of the picture.

7. You know I am not serious when I say this but think about it.
8. Assume there is no God. Assume God can't do anything. Assume there is no God to trust in and look at what you have left.
9. Without God, you still have the need, and you still don't know the who, what, when, where & how.
10. Without God you still have the need, but you have no promise that God will ever meet that need.
11. Without God you have no hope.
12. So, what does trusting in God. In the promise of God. In the ways of God cost you? It costs you a little discomfort.
13. The discomfort of not knowing who, what, when, where & how.
14. But what do you gain? You gain a hope and a future and a promise.
15. I ask you today to choose that option.
16. Pray over people for faith.
17. Lead in prayer to lay down the who, what, when, where & how.
18. In its place pick up the trust that He will.