

**Speaker:** Associate Pastor Richard Yun

**Title:** Don't Hold Back

**Text:** 2 Kings 13:14-19

### **Introduction**

Joash the King of Israel came weeping because at that time the enemy, Syria has taken part of the land of Israel and was greatly bothering God's people. As we enter this death-bed scene, the prophet Elisha gave King Joash a solution to defeat his enemy permanently. It is the same solution for you and me today.

#### 1. **Pick up Your Bow and Arrows (13: 14-16)**

Elisha was symbolically urging God's people to victory over God's enemies.

The prophet was trying to stir up the sluggish, compromised young king with enthusiasm to fight the enemy. We need to get off the DEFENSIVE and onto the OFFENSIVE and attack the fortified places of error and sin.

This means you are going to fight. How can you experience victory without a battle? Thanks be to God that He has provided everything needed. Pick up your weapons just as the king was told to do so. Our weapons are not carnal but spiritual. [2 Corinthians 10:4]

#### 2. **Open the Window Eastward (13: 17a)**

Why did the Prophet ask King Joash to open the window eastward and shoot an arrow in that direction?

- Because that is where Syria was! They were toward the east. God wants you to aim your attack at the enemy.
- Ephesians 6:10-13 says that we wrestle not against flesh and blood but against spiritual wickedness in the heavenly places. Aim your spiritual weapons against your enemy and really attack him where it hurts him most, in the Spirit.
- If your enemy is human, remember he has flesh and blood. Therefore, he is not your enemy. Your battle is spiritual. Fight with spiritual weapons! When gossiped against, don't gossip back.
- Love those that hate you, bless those that curse you, pray for those who spitefully use you. Matthew 5:44.
- Romans 12:21: "Overcome evil with good".
- The world says, "Fight fire with fire!" But true Christianity extinguishes fire with water!

#### 3. **Complete Victory (13:17b)**

The Word of the Lord came through the Prophet. You will completely destroy your enemy! What a marvelous prophecy! That means you will have complete victory.

- This is God's will for you too. It assures us that if we are really engaged in the Lord's work, we are on the winning side.
- Jesus Himself fought and provided for this victory when He defeated Satan by dying on the cross and rising from the dead. Christ won the victory over evil at Calvary. Some are not aware of it. It's up to us to let them know the Good News!

#### 4. **Only Three Victories (13: 18a)**

The Prophet asked the king to take the rest of the arrows in his hand and smite the ground. This was symbolic of his taking authority over his enemy. The arrows represent God's authority over our enemy. (Psalms 7:13, Psalm 18:14, Psalm 45:5)

First he said "You'll have complete victory (completely defeat your enemy), and now he says only 3 victories. Smiting 3 times, and getting 3 victories means you get out of it what you put into it!

#### 5. **He Held Back (13: 18-19)**

The scriptures say that King Joash smote three times and stopped. That means he held back. In other words, you won't have complete victory.

Some people will never have complete victory because they hold back. What you put into it, you'll get out of it.

If you want to completely destroy the attack of the enemy in your life and live in the 100% victory God desires for you, then don't hold back!

### **Conclusion**

Don't Hold Back. Take the lid off your expectations. Follow the Lord faithfully, wholeheartedly, courageously, recognising that when His Hand is on the bow, victory is sure in the end.