

NEXT VISION

LESSON 2: VISIONARY

2 Kings 6:11-17

REVIEW

1. **Assignment:** I am anxious to look at your repurposed items (call on a few people and ask them to talk about their repurposed items).
2. If I can SEE it, I can achieve it!
3. What's the Lord saying to you?
4. You cannot hit a target you can't see.
5. God Vision – 2 Kings 6:8-10
 - a. Divine Insight: Seeing beyond the ordinary
 - b. Clear Direction: Moving forward with confidence

Today our topic is 'Visionary.' In this lesson we will consider the impact of an **undeveloped** or **underdeveloped vision**. The prevailing focus is the idea of **perception deception**. Grab your Bible and turn with me to **2 Kings 6:15-17**. (Read Scripture)

WHO IS THE SPY

During week one, we laid the foundation for the series. Despite Syria's attempts to attack Israel, Elisha received a divine revelation that prevented Syrian attacks. It happened so often that the Syrian king became frustrated. The extent of his frustration is revealed in verse 11.

"Therefore, the heart of the king was greatly troubled by this thing; and he called his servants and said to them, 'Will you not show me which of us is for the king of Israel?'" 2 Kings 6:11

The Message paraphrase makes it plain, ***"He called his officers together and said, 'Tell me, who is leaking information to the king of Israel? Who is the spy in our ranks?'"***

The Syrian king is losing his mind because he believes there is a spy in his camp. Because God is everywhere all the time, He is in the Syrian war room as the generals plan the next attack. They had no idea he is there... but he is!

SIDE NOTE: Even when you don't acknowledge Him, God is in the room!

God gets the scoop on the next planned attack. He slides the plans to Elisha, who then slides them to the Israeli King. Divine revelation is hard core! Elisha's intel keeps Israel safe from attacks. ***"This thing"*** (evading attacks) is ***troubling to the Syrian King***.

The Hebrew word for 'troubled' is Ca'ar (sah-ar) which means 'Whirlwind.'

The Syrian king is tormented by a whirlwind of **'troubling'** thoughts. His closest allies are suspects. There is no one he trusts. Those in his circle are examined for their motives. Paranoia and restlessness plague him.

His mind is racing with thoughts and questions. The conspirator, who is he? Are there any co-conspirators? Does his wife need to be followed? Can his mother be trusted? **Troubled minds hear things that were never said! It perceives betrayal even when none exists.**

Perception drives performance. Because his thoughts are misplaced, the king's priorities are misaligned. Instead of focusing on the mission, he is driven by distractions. Jermaine Riley said, *"Distractions destroy action. If it's not moving you towards your purpose, leave it alone."* ^[1]

Can you tell me what is distracting you? What needs to be left alone or laid aside? Has something blurred your vision? There was one! Your vision was compelling. You had it in your grasp, and it was crystal clear. What must happen for you to get back on track?

TD Jakes was right when he said, *"You will never completely be healed or whole until you change the voice inside of your own head."*

Romans 12:2 tells us how to change the voice... ***"do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind..."*** The ICB translation says, ***"Do not be shaped by this world. Instead be changed within by a new way of thinking..."***

There's stuff bouncing around in my head all the time. Some of it's productive and spiritual, but other times it's just gibberish. You know, thought's driven by insecurity and timidity.

Judy Allen said, *"My mind is the place of my intellect, reasoning, and intentions; my behavior begins in my mind, and my mind is where spiritual transformation happens (Romans 12:2). The object of my regular thinking will determine how my days, years, and ultimately my life plays out. Everything starts in the mind."* ^[2]

The Syrian king was messed up in his head. He was crippled by perception deception.

PERCEPTION DECEPTION

PERCEPTION -> (Webster) To receive knowledge of through the senses; to see, feel or hear; to Understand.

DECEPTION -> (Webster) Fraud, illusion, causing a false impression.

When combined, "Perception Deception" implies that things are not always as they seem. The prevalence of fraud and illusion has blurred the lines between what is genuine and what is false, resulting in a hazy and uncertain reality.

Deception has become commonplace, and we have grown numb to it. Counterfeit money, fake identities, padded resumes, and fraud are at an all-time high. It seems that no one is true to themselves or who they claim to be. Deceptive illusions abound, from beer commercials to synthetic diamonds, and how about all those political campaign promises?

The art of deception has a long history, stretching back to when Adam and Eve covered themselves with fig leaves to conceal their nakedness. Eve sought equality with God through a single bite of forbidden fruit while Adam complied with Eve's request. Since then, a chronology of deceit has unfolded.

Samson thought Delilah loved him.
Goliath thought David was a pushover.
David thought Uriah was a push over and,
Moses thought the people of Israel would love him for leading them out of slavery.

Joseph thought his brothers liked him.
Jacob thought Joseph was dead.
Jonah thought he could run from God and,
Everybody thought Noah was crazy.

Martha thought Mary was lazy.
The Scribes thought themselves to be righteous.
Judas thought a kiss would be simple and,
Everybody thought Lazarus was dead.

In our story, the king thought there was a spy ... but there was no spy! An officer explains...

"It's not us, my lord the king," one of the officers replied. "Elisha, the prophet in Israel, tells the king of Israel even the words you speak in the privacy of your bedroom!" "Go and find out where he is," the king commanded, "so I can send troops to seize him." And the report came back: "Elisha is at Dothan." So one night the king of Aram sent a great army with many chariots and horses to surround the city. 2 Kings 6:12-14 NLT

Gehazi, overwhelmed by the sight of the enemy's physical might, believed his life was over. Look at **2 Kings 6:15. "And when the servant of the man of God arose early and went out, there was an army, surrounding the city with horses and chariots. And his servant said to him, Alas Master! What shall we do?"**

Gehazi: Composed of two root words: "gay" and "kwahzaw"

'Gay' means 'valley' and 'kwahzaw' means 'mentally perceptive or visionary.' Together, the name Gehazi signifies the **"valley of a visionary."**

Names held great significance in Biblical history, as they represented one's character or personality. Sometimes, names were prophetic, foretelling future events. For example:

- God renamed Abram as Abraham, meaning "Father of many Nations," even before Isaac's birth.
- Jesus referred to Simon as Peter, meaning "rock," before Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit and started walking in power and boldness.

Elisha's servant was named Gehazi, suggesting he would be a visionary and prophet. However, in this story, his vision remained undeveloped. Despite possessing the ability to witness the supernatural, as witnessed a few verses later, his eyes remained closed until Elisha's intervention. For now, he couldn't fulfill his destiny.

Gehazi had a stellar spiritual background ... when it came to his role as a prophet, **Elijah** nailed it! Regarding supernatural activity, he was unmatched. However, his protégé **Elisha** took up his mantle and doubled his stats. The possibilities of a third-generation prophet carrying the name 'visionary' ... well, they are endless!

Throughout his life, Gehazi was constantly reminded of his calling and purpose. Every time someone called his name, it echoed his identity:

- "Hey visionary, come eat your breakfast."
- "Hello visionary, my name is Elias."
- "I would like you to meet my friend visionary."

In this story, Gehazi had a chance to shine. His entire life had led up to this moment. He was the sole student of the most experienced and powerful prophet. He lived out his life being told that visioneering was his destiny. However, the opposite occurred, and he had to rely on his mentor for the vision.

It is likely that there are people here tonight who were born for a specific purpose but have not yet fulfilled their destinies. **Dr. Myles Monroe once said, "You were not meant for a mundane or mediocre life. You do not exist just to earn a paycheck. The only thing that will satisfy you is what you were born to do. You were meant to accomplish something that no one else in the world can do."** ^[3]

What was I born to do? I was born to preach the Gospel. I am a husband and father, and I am a citizen, and each of those carries a responsibility. But I was born to preach. It is not my calling to be the best preacher in the land, but to preach to the best of my ability.

For Gehazi, his calling was that of a prophet. I believe the devil attacked his vision, hoping to sabotage God's plan and redirect Gehazi's faith from what he knew to what he saw.

Guess what? Satan wants to do the same thing to you. **He wants to shift your faith from what you know and believe strongly to what you see and perceive.** If given the opportunity, the devil will keep you imprisoned in spiritual blindness indefinitely. But with faith overcoming fear, we can clearly see!

In **2 Kings 6:15-17** we find two undeniable truths:

1. NOT EVERYTHING CAN BE MEASURED BY VISIBLE STANDARDS.

Gehazi was ready to give up based on what he saw. ***"... [He] went out and saw an army surrounding the city with horses and chariots. And his servant said to Elisha, 'Oh no, my master! What shall we do?'" (Verse 15)***

He had previously witnessed supernatural intervention, but new giants tend to cause spiritual amnesia. Can you blame him? He is surrounded by enemy forces. They are heavily armed, trained for battle, large in number, well organized, and there is no escape. The odds are insurmountable ... even for God!

Gehazi studied the situation and predicted the outcome. We're dead! By all appearances, he was right. This is not a dream. It is reality. A real army besieged them. But here's what you need to know. In some cases, you see the things that the enemy wants you to see. It's easy to stumble over things you can't see, but sometimes, it's what you *do* see that'll trip you up!

- You see the word "cancer" in the medical report!
- You see the low balance in your checkbook and the pile of bills on the table!
- You see the empty beer can in your child's bedroom!

The antidote for visual paralysis is **2 Corinthians 5:7** which invites us to ***"walk by faith, not by sight."*** The EXB translation adds some depth: ***"We live [walk] by what we believe [faith], not by what we can see [sight]."***

We live by what we believe! We **see** the Red Sea, but we **believe** God can part the waters. We **see** the red-hot furnace, but we **believe** the fourth man will be in the fire. We **see** the hungry

lions, but we **believe** God will shut their mouths. We **see** the raging storm, but we **believe** God will get us to the other side.

The presence of crises does not imply the absence of God's power! The God we cannot see will intervene to help us overcome the opposing forces we do see. Don't let what you see deceive you. There's more to the story, and with faith, you'll overcome every obstacle! Make a declaration ... *"I am not shaken by what I see, for there is a powerful supernatural force at work in the unseen realm."*

2. GOD WANTS US TO SEE MORE THAN WHAT OUR NATURAL VISION ALLOWS

"Don't be afraid," the prophet answered. "Those who are with us are more than those who are with them." And Elisha prayed, "Open his eyes, LORD, so that he may see." Then the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw..." | 2 Kings 6:16-17

Prayer: Lord, **open our eyes** and grant us spiritual clarity. We long to see what can only be perceived through spiritual vision correction.

"...and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha." | 2 Kings 6:17

It's like the man who took his small daughter on a cruise around Manhattan Island. It was one of those beautifully clear days. Suddenly the little girl exclaimed, *"Daddy, I can look further than my eyes can see."*

God is prepared to equip us with supernatural lenses. **We have been watching a 3D movie without the 3-D glasses. There is no depth or clarity to the images in front of you.** It is possible to know God's plan, yet lack the insight needed to realize it. Without clarity and depth of vision, aimless wandering occurs. God is the only one who can provide depth and clarity.

Looking at things from God's perspective is how I want to live my life! Our standard of normality does not apply to God. He doesn't follow human rules and does not work within human limitations.

- When we can't forgive, God does.
- When we don't love, God does.
- When we are emptied out, God gives.
- When we are hollowed out, God restores.
- When we are self-absorbed, God overflows.
- When we are non-committal, God promises.
- When we can't see the solution, God does.

Prayer allowed Gehazi to see things he could not see before. If you've been paralyzed at the site of the Syrian army, ask God to help you see the **horses and chariots of fire!**

VISION CANNOT BE TAUGHT; IT MUST BE CAUGHT!

I cannot teach you *how* to have vision, but I can help you *catch* a vision.

Illustration: Let's say I am building a new house. When I reach the start-up phase, it means I have all the plans drawn, all the physical resources in place, all the management resources in order, and now I am ready to begin. Do I begin to build a house when the foundation is dug? No, I begin building when the idea is conceived.

This means that the finished house is in the unseen. People pass by the property, and they don't see it. However, to you who understand and know what is going to happen, it is already finished. When someone asks you, "*What are you doing?*" your answer is definite. You grab them by the hand and walk them through your new home.

Ask for the help of a volunteer. Walk them through the steps of building a new house by asking them the following questions...

Thanks for volunteering. We are going to work on your new house, and we are going to do it right up here in front of your peers.

How many acres are we working with?

Awesome, is it a brick house, or something else, and where is the front door?

I like it, let's step into your house. Where is your living room? (fireplace, window, TV)

And your kitchen? (Island stove, fridge, cabinets)

Show me your garage. What vehicle(s) are parked in there?

Thank the volunteer and turn your attention to the students. Ask them step by step to tell you about the volunteer's new home and let them answer:

How many acres? Where is the house located? Where is the living room? What's in the living room? Where is the kitchen? What's in the kitchen? Where is the garage? What's in the garage?

The students will answer every question correctly because they have 'caught' the vision.

Watch this ... you have never physically seen the house, but you have seen it in your mind. Three weeks from now you will still SEE the house. Why? Because you caught the vision. You have seen what your natural vision does not allow.

I want you to conquer your Syrian army! That one [seemingly] insurmountable challenge that keeps you locked down. Defeat is not inevitable! Just on the other side of Syria's chariots are God's chariots. You'll not be conquered, your enemy will.

OUR SPIRITUAL PROGRESSION

There's a spiritual progression in these verses.

1. Blind: Represents those who have no faith; spiritually blind - vs. 11
2. Barriers: Represents those who accept Christ, but their faith is underdeveloped – vs. 15
3. Beyond: Represents those who operate with spiritually clarity – vss. 16-17

After accepting Christ, a spiritually **blind** person SEES for the first time. In an attempt to block life-giving vision, Satan will erect **barriers**. To succeed in our spiritual lives and walk with God, we must submit to His Word and surrender to His Spirit. By relying on the Word and Spirit, we can see **beyond** barriers in a supernatural way.

ASSIGNMENT

Embark on a journey to a place you have never visited before, be it a store, park, museum, or any other setting. Pick up an item of interest and bring it back to class with you next week.

Resource Credits

1. 36 Distraction Quotes To Regain Focus. <https://www.trvst.world/work-skills/distraction-quotes/>
2. Five Steps to Renewing Your Mind - Open the Bible. <https://openthe bible.org/article/five-steps-to-renewing-your-mind/>
3. The Principles and Power of Vision: Keys to Achieving Personal and Corporate Destiny by Myles Munroe.