

Devotional from Pastor Ho

March 19, 2020

2 Kings 6:16, “[Elisha] said, ‘Do not be afraid, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.’”

The event behind this captivating verse has always been my favorite children Sunday School story. Yet I never outgrow it. Thus, to this day, every time I face what seems like insurmountable and even paralyzing difficulties, I always turn to this story for comfort and strength. I hope it will do the same to us now as we face uncertain days ahead in light of the corona virus outbreak.

The story is about the servant of the man of God, Elisha, arising early in the morning and seeing an army with horses and chariots all around the city, because the king of Syria sent them by night to seize the prophet Elisha. Elisha had made known and foiled the king’s plan against the king of Israel multiple times, such that the king of Syria was greatly frustrated.

With this scene before him, the servant’s immediate reaction was, “Alas, my master! What shall we do?” Elisha comforted him with our verse today, then he prayed, “O LORD, please open his eyes that he may see.” Then the servant’s eyes were opened and he saw the mountain full of horses and chariots of fire around Elisha. Now the Syrian army was trapped in the inner circle, while the angelic army encircled them in the outer circle. The story doesn’t end here, but you could read on...

To pick up where we left off last week, our calling as followers of Christ is “to love God and one another,” especially during these days of COVID-19, not on our own strength and might, but in full reliance upon our Savior. To be afraid, however, is to count on ourselves while doubting He who says, “Do not be afraid...” To be afraid is to see ourselves overpowered by the enemy while being oblivious of the greater power protecting us. In short, the suffering due to the COVID-19 outbreak is real, but precisely during this time we need to pray for the eyes to see the spiritual realities around us, so that we can face the uncertainties ahead with trust rather than fear.

何牧师的灵修

2020年3月19日

列王记下6章16节：神人说：「不要惧怕！与我们同在的比与他们同在的更多。」

这节吸引人的经文背后的事件一直都是我最爱的儿童主日学故事。但是我从来都没有把它看为儿时故事。因此，直到今天，每当我面对似乎无法克服，甚至令人瘫痪的困难时，我总是转向这个故事所带给我的安慰和力量。我希望现在当我们在冠状病毒爆发时面对不确定的日子的时候，这节经文背后的故事也一样带给我们安慰和力量。

这个故事是关于神人以利沙的仆人，清早起来出，看见车马军兵围困了城，因为亚兰王夜间打发人去捉拿先知以利沙。以利沙曾多次宣告并挫败亚兰王对以色列王的计划，以致亚兰王大为沮丧。

面对当前这一幕，仆人的立即反应是：「哀哉！我主啊，我们怎样行才好呢？」以利沙用我们今天的经文安慰他，然后祷告说：「耶和華啊，求你开这少年人的眼目，使他能看见。」然后仆人的眼目被打开，就看见山有火车火马围绕以利沙。现在，亚兰大军被困在内圈，而天使天军在外圈包围他们。故事还没有结束，但你可以继续读下去。。。

回到我们上周搁笔之处，我们作为基督徒的呼召是「爱神爱人」，尤其是在冠状病毒的这些日子里。这不是靠我们自己的力量，而是完全依靠我们的救主。但惧怕就是靠自己，同时怀疑那位说「不要惧怕…」的主。惧怕就是看到自己被敌人压倒，而忽略了保护我们的更大的力量。简单的说，冠状病毒爆发所带来的痛苦是真实的，但恰恰在这段时间里，我们需要祷告，让我们的眼睛看见我们周围的属灵现实。这样我们就可以用信靠，而不是惧怕，来面对前面不确定的日子。