

*Our scrip: A man of God must hear from God about danger – and then bring warning or take action to save people.*

### **I. THE REALITY OF AMBUSHES**

#### **A. We see here a reality of ministry: Spiritual ambushes**

1. The enemy is strategizing to harm God's people/God's work
  - a. *V8-9 camp in a certain place...a particular spot of ambush*
2. This is what the enemy does: He plots particular strategies against us
  - a. *2 Cor 2:11 we are not ignorant of his devices...lit. strategies* b. *Isa 54:17 no weapon formed against you...lit handcrafted*
  1. The enemy assesses our weaknesses/vulnerabilities in order to attack

#### **B. This is what the enemy does in congregations**

1. He is arranging people/situations and spirits to come against the work of God
  - a. **Moral:** He arranges for unclean/immoral people to come to church/meet our people
  - b. **Religious:** He introduces people infected with false doctrine into the assembly
    1. *Wheat/Tares* 2. *Philippians 3:2 Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the concision.*
  - c. **Rebellion/division:** Contentious people who resist spiritual authority
    1. *Romans 16:17 Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.*
  - a. People have a spirit: People come in with unhealthy spirits – to infect
  - d. **Witchcraft/demonic dimension:** Acts 16:16 girl with a spirit of divination...
  - e. **Conscientious killers:** People who do damage – while meaning well
    1. *Helpful warnings of doubt* 2. *NC killers:*

### **II. SPIRITUAL SENSITIVITY**

#### **A. A crucial dimension of leadership Having spiritual sensitivity to recognize potential danger/enemy strategies**

1. *V9/12 Elisha heard from God what the enemy was plotting...*
2. This is spiritual perception: The ability to see or hear from God concerning danger
  - a. **The ability to recognize spiritual dimensions – beyond people**
    1. *Eph 6:12 we wrestle not against flesh & blood but against principalities/powers*
      - a. He says this b/c we often focus on people – not recognizing the spirit behind them
      - b. Any time you are consumed with a person in your church – that can be evidence of a spirit
  - b. **Ability to see long-term:** Where will this current situation wind up?
    1. *Proverbs 22:3 A prudent man foresees evil and hides himself; But the simple pass on and are punished.*
      - a. *Brownsville: Pastors saying it's wonderful...PM saw where it would lead!*

#### **B. So it's clear that spiritual sensitivity must be cultivated**

1. **We need to ask for spiritual sensitivity** *James 1:5 if any lack wisdom* b. *Isa 50:4 he wakens my ear... uncovering*
  - a. Regular relationship with God
  - b. Specific request: Because we so desperately need it!
2. **Sensitivity comes from a connection to our spiritual fathers**
  - a. Elisha learned this from Elijah b. King of Israel is saved by his connection to Elisha
    1. *Stay in contact with MOG* 2. *Ask about specific situations or people*
3. **Spiritual sensitivity comes from thinking:** Using common sense – thinking things through
4. **Spiritual sensitivity comes from specific prayers:** Elisha was apparently praying for them
  - a. We pray over specific people/situations *Luke 22:31 but I have prayed for you...*
5. **Spiritual sensitivity is dependent on response:** God won't speak if won't obey..

### **III. AVOIDING AMBUSHES**

#### **A. The whole point of spiritual sensitivity is protect from danger**

1. *2 Kings 6:10 Then the king of Israel sent someone to the place of which the man of God had told him. Thus he warned him, and he was watchful there, not just once or twice.*
  - a. The key is that a MOG must act on what God reveals: Information without action is useless!
3. This all begins with prayer: The first action is to pray... Sometimes the only action you can do is to pray
  - a. Action may actually do damage!

#### **B. The added dimension of leadership is warning**

1. *2 Kings 6:9 the man of God sent to the king of Israel, saying, "Beware that you do not pass this place. for the Syrians are coming down there.*
  - a. The warning of preaching
  - b. The warning of caution
  - c. The warning of rebuke:
  - d. Restrictions: *Not to speak to NC Will not have any contact with boys/girls*
  - e. Discipline/removal: *To protect the whole congregation*

**C. The results of spiritual sensitivity is salvation** *2 Kings 6:10 the king of Israel sent to the place which the man of God told him and warned him of, and saved himself there, not once nor twice. Saved: Preserve/protect/guard/keep...*