

Run Toward Challenge

Scripture: 2 Kings 6:8 – 17

How do you react to a challenge? Do you run toward the challenge or do you run away from a challenge? Do you pause for a moment and evaluate the challenge and then decide what you will do? Have you been lucky in your life to not have had many challenges or have your challenges been too numerous to count?

Let's be honest, when a challenge comes our way, we often do not run toward the challenge. We run away from it!

In our reading from 2 Kings we have Elisha's servant in a situation that is challenging. He is surrounded by an enemy army. Elisha's servant panicked! He panicked when he saw his town surrounded by an enemy army. He panicked and ran to Elisha in fear. Once he got to Elisha, the servant said in fear – *Oh no my lord! What shall we do?*

Elisha told his servant to relax and Elisha said – *Those who are with us are more than those who are with them!* It was at that moment that God opened the servant's eyes and the servant saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha!

Picture that scene, the servant sees the hills full of horses and chariots with fire all around Elisha. What a glorious vision that must have been! Can you envision this scene?

If you strive to follow Jesus, you may find yourself in some dicey situations. If you try to follow Jesus, you may find a large army surrounding you. If you proclaim Jesus as your Lord and Savior, you may have many challenges coming your way.

You may have to risk your reputation to do what your calling to follow Jesus says is right. You may have to even risk your security to do what following Jesus means.

In our country today – If you strive to follow Jesus, you will find yourself in dicey situations. You may find it impossible to speak to some people about politics and systemic racism, but you must persist to do what is right. Oh, you may end up losing sleep wondering how it will all turn out.

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Please remember, you are not alone! You do not have to be stronger or smarter than the challenge before you. Jesus is with you and His power is greater than all rivals. Ask yourself the question Paul possess – *If God is for you, who can be against you?*

Think of that, envision that! Really, no matter who is against you, if God is with you, you will be stronger and smarter than any challenge.

May you always run toward your challenge with God!

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Do you see the hills filled with horses and chariots which are on fire? Do you envision that?

Think of that, envision that! Really, no matter who is against us, if God is with us, we will be stronger and smarter than any challenge.

May we always run toward our challenge with God!

Let us pray:

O God, help us to truly see that you are bigger than any problem facing us today. May we be able to envision the hills around us filled with horses and chariots surrounded by fire. There is no challenge we cannot face because if God is with, who can be against us.

We thank you O Lord for your everlasting presence and strength. AMEN.