"OPEN HIS EYES, THAT HE MAY SEE"

II KINGS 6:17

INTRODUCTION:

1. This is Elisha’s prayer on behalf of his servant who was troubled when he saw the Syrian army that compassed Dothan by night.

2. Tell the story of the King of Syria warring against the king of Israel.

3. Elisha’s prayer is most appropriate NOW -- we need to open our eyes to many things today.

4. Today many have their eyes closed through PREJUDICE, INDIFFERENCE, REBELLION, and LUKEWARMNESS.

5. Let us study some of the things we need to open our eyes to.

I. WE NEED TO OPEN OUR EYES TO THE TRUTH

1. The church at Laodicea -- Rev. 3: 17 - 18

2. Jesus said the truth would make us free -- John 8:32

3. David said: "Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law" -- Psa. 119:18
   (1) The plan of Salvation
   (2) The church
   (3) Promises
   (4) Example of Christ

4. The wise man said, "Buy the truth and sell it not" -- Prov. 23:23
   (1) Buy what is TRULY the truth -- I Thess. 5:21-- "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good"...
   (2) Buy ALL the truth -- Acts 20:27 -- "All the counsel of God"
   (3) Buy the truth at ANY PRICE -- Matt. 13: 45 - 46 --"One pearl of great price"
   (4) Buy the truth NOW -- II Cor. 6:2

5. The truth BUYER must learn to discriminate so he can REJECT THE DOCTRINES OF MEN -- Matt. 15:9
   (1) The Doctrine of FAITH ONLY -- James 2:24
   (2) The Doctrine "the church is not essential" -- Matt. 16:18; Acts 2:47
   (3) The Doctrine "Baptism is not necessary" -- Mark 16:16; I Pet. 3:21
   (4) The Doctrine "you can’t fall from grace" -- Gal. 5:4

6. Some things we need to consider about the truth:
(1) Not enough to HEAR the truth -- James 1: 22 -25; John 8:31
(2) Not enough to be content with intending to buy it.

7. David said: "Thy testimonies have I taken as an HERITAGE forever; for they are the rejoicing of my heart"...Psa. 119:111

8. Many today do NOT love the truth -- II Thess. 2: 10 - 12

II. WE NEED TO OPEN OUR EYES TO OURSELVES

1. We need to see ourselves as OTHERS SEE US -- II Cor. 13:5

2. We may be:

   (1) Self-centered, or selfish -- I Tim. 3:2
   (2) Proud -- filled with pride -- II Tim. 3:2; Prov. 6:17; Prov. 16:18
   (3) Boastful -- II Tim. 3:2; Luke 18: 11 - 12
   (4) Hateful -- Rom. 1:30; Tit. 3:3
   (6) Filled with Jealousy -- Gal. 5:20
   (7) Envy -- I Pet. 2:1
   (8) We may backbite (Rom. 1:30); Gossip (I Tim. 5:13); Whisper (Rom. 1:29); and Slander (Psa. 101:5)
   (9) We may have fault of character--being like Reuben -- "Unstable as water, thou shalt not excel;"...Gen. 49: 4

3. Many of us need to come FACE to FACE with our faults
   (1) Like the Chief Butler -- Gen. 41: 9; Gen. 40:14
   (2) Like David -- II Sam. 12: 7, 9 - 10

4. We need to see ourselves as God sees us; we need to look into God's mirror often -- HIS WORD! -- James 1: 23 - 25

III. WE NEED TO SEE OUR OPPORTUNITIES -- Gal. 6:10

1. Opportunity to speak a kind and encouraging word -- I Thess. 5:14; Eph. 4:32; Rom. 15:1
2. Opportunity to restore the fallen -- Gal. 6:1; James 5: 19 - 20
3. Opportunity to comfort the bereaved -- Rom. 12:15
4. Opportunity to administer to the sick, feed the hungry, clothe the naked -- Matt. 25: 34 - 40
IV. WE NEED TO OPEN OUR EYES TO THE LOST
   1. God so loved the lost that He gave His only begotten Son -- John 3:16; Rom. 8:32
   2. Jesus came to save the LOST -- Luke 19:10
   3. All the Lost need the gospel -- Rom. 1: 16 - 17; II Thess. 1: 8 - 9; Mark 16: 15 - 16

V. WE NEED TO OPEN OUR EYES TO JESUS -- Heb. 12: 2
   1. We need to see Jesus as our REDEEMER -- Eph. 1:7; I Pet. 2:24; Tit. 2:14
   2. We need to see Jesus as our HIGH PRIEST -- Heb. 4: 14 - 16
   3. We need to see Jesus as our EXAMPLE -- I Pet. 2:21
   4. We need to see Jesus as our COMING JUDGE -- Acts 17: 31; II Cor. 5: 10

CONCLUSION

FRIEND, ARE YOUR EYES OPEN TODAY ??
Won't you make the changes that need to be made?

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(River Bend, Nov. 1995)