

Shoot the Arrow

Great Commission

Mark 16:15-16 "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned."

2 Kings 13:14-20

In this story, Jehoash is the king of Israel who at the time was being threatened by the armies of Amaziah, the king of Judah.

*14 "Some time before the death of King Jehoash, Elisha the prophet was very sick and about to die. Jehoash went in and stood beside him, crying. He said, "Master, what will Israel's chariots and cavalry be able to do without you?" 15 "Grab a bow and some arrows," Elisha told him, "and hold them in your hand." 16 Jehoash grabbed the bow and arrows and held them. **Elisha placed his hand on the king's hand** 17 and said, "Open the window facing east." When it was open, Elisha shouted, "Now shoot!" Jehoash shot an arrow and Elisha said, "**That arrow is a sign that the Lord will help you** completely defeat the Syrian army at Aphek." 18 Elisha said, "Pick up the arrows and hit the ground with them." Jehoash grabbed the arrows and hit the ground three times, then stopped.*

Elisha's response was unexpected.

19 Elisha became angry with the king and exclaimed, “If you had struck it five or six times, you would completely wipe out the Syrians. Now you will defeat them only three times.” 20 Elisha died and was buried...

How could Jehoash’s future be affected by how many times he hit the arrows on the ground?

Elisha instructed him to strike the ground, but he didn’t say how many times.

Elisha began with a promise of a complete victory *“That arrow is a sign that the Lord will help you completely defeat the Syrian army.”*

But Jehoash would receive much less *“... now you will defeat them only three times.”*

The difference between a complete victory and a partial victory was his choice to strike the arrow only 3 times.

This revealed to Elisha that Jehoash lacked determination to receive the full measure of God’s provision and intention for him.

What does the story have to do with our involvement in the Great Commission?

Elisha placed his hand on the king's hand...that arrow is a sign that the Lord will help you.

Many years ago, God called (shot) our church into planting churches around Australia and into the mission fields to fulfil the Great Commission.

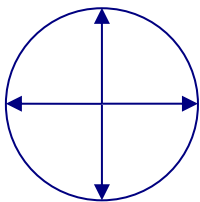
“If you had struck it five or six times, you would completely wipe out the Syrians”

Our challenge is to not give up reaching new frontiers to extend God’s Kingdom.

We should never stop striking the arrows of giving, sending and visiting!

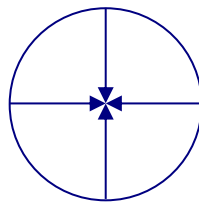
We need to keep striking and shooting the arrows of evangelism, teaching the Word, church planting, missionary training, Christian education, helping the needy and visiting.

Two Mentalities in the Local Church today.



RADIC

Out from the
centre



CENTRIC

Into the centre

God intends the Local Church to have a ‘*Radic*’ mentality.

Missions is not what we do, it is who we are!