

## Small Salvation

*“Now the sons of the prophets said to Elisha, 'See, the place where we dwell under your charge is too small for us. Let us go to the Jordan and each of us get there a log, and let us make a place for us to dwell there.' And he answered, 'Go.' Then one of them said, 'Be pleased to go with your servants.' And he answered, 'I will go.' So he went with them. And when they came to the Jordan, they cut down trees. But as one was felling a log, his axe head fell into the water, and he cried out, 'Alas, my master! It was borrowed.' Then the man of God said, 'Where did it fall?' When he showed him the place, he cut off a stick and threw it in there and made the iron float. And he said, 'Take it up.' So he reached out his hand and took it.” 2 Kings 6:1-7*

It seems like a waste of a miracle. A sign that bent the very fabric of nature was used on a student who lost what he borrowed. What's more, the students were the ones who wanted to cut down trees for a larger dwelling place, not Elisha. And even more than that, they, like children demonstrating how fast they can run, requested Elisha's presence while they cut down the trees. So, at their behest, Elisha allowed them to make for themselves a larger place to dwell and went with them.

It seems like a waste of a miracle, and yet, the mere fact that it happened tells us that it wasn't, because the power wasn't Elisha's but God's. And God saw fit to rescue this student from the wrath of his lender. What more can we say? God wanted it to happen and it did.

For Christians who have been with God for a while, there can develop a kind of reverse doubt. When one believes in God but doubts God before becoming a Christian, it's a doubt that often goes something like: God can do this little thing in my life, but He can't or won't forgive my sins. But after becoming Christians there can develop a reversal of this: God is able to save me from my sins, the greatest act of salvation, but is unwilling to help/I shouldn't bother Him to save me out of the little things. The truth is that God wants to save us out of both the big things and the little things. Even when we bring them on ourselves. **[DJR]**