I Kings Jim Downing

I. Introduction.

A. Eleventh commandment - thou shall not rock the boat.

B. Bill Bright of Campus Crusade affirms the Navigators and its founder.

C. Back to the Bible and the association with the Billy Graham Crusade helped the Navigators grow.

II. 2 Kings 6:4-7.

A. Principles.

1. How God selected what to put in Scripture.

a. It is as important what a person puts into a picture as what is left out. God left out a lot and had a reason for putting in what He did.

b. Almost every incident in Scripture involves a spiritual battle.

2. The first antagonist of significance is Satan working through Ben-Hadad and Jehorum.

a. The thief only comes to kill, steal and destroy - this is Satan's key objective.

1) Satan was trying to do away with redemption.

2) When we become involved with sin, some part of us is destroyed.

3) If there is no Devil, who is doing his work?

b. The reason that the two people doing Satan's work do not unite is because the human ego is more powerful. There comes a point where Satan loses control of the people he is working through. (Proverbs 13:10)

1) Pride is the only source of contention.

2) There are four kinds of pride: the pride of face, place, race, and grace.

3) The main enemy to be dealt with is our own ego.

4) Sin is a product of turning everyone to his own way.

3. Elijah concentrated on understanding what God had to say.

4. The philosophy of the lepers was that they had the good news and were compelled to tell it. The lepers had a humble attitude.

5. God knows what to do with "doubting deputies." They became confused through the sound of marching armies brought by God.

a. It is always the darkest just before God steps in.

b. God's patience is short in the area of unbelief, particularly among leadership.

c. The need of the hour is for men and women who believe God.

d. The point where the battle turns is when we get God involved.

B. Application.

Application questions.

1. What stood out to you about the story of Elijah here?

2. What were the outstanding principles of which the speaker makes note? Which ones did he focus on the most? How would you explain the emphasis?

3. In what area do you find yourself most convicted? What lessons did you learn to apply personally to this area of your life?