



**Not the Needy
But The Greedy!
2 Kings 5:20-27
(Marching Through
2 Kings)**

- ▶ The Holy Scriptures often times may spend quite a bit of time on a person in a story to accent their character for us, whether good or bad, for our own education and spiritual formation
- ▶ This is not to focus on them alone, but their attributes whether good or bad, that can help or hurt our walk with God
- ▶ The focus of today's lesson is on a servant of God named Gehazi
- ▶ The object of the lesson is to understand what attributed to his fall from grace so that we can avoid the same issue in our lives; 1 Corinthians 10:12



Background Information

- ▶ Naaman was a military leader of the Arameans, a country who oft times was in conflict with Israel
- ▶ He was highly regarded and respected for his military skill, but he had one huge problem, Leprosy
- ▶ A young servant woman captured from Israel, who was an attendant to Naaman's wife, had informed her that there was a religious man in Israel who could cure him of his illness
- ▶ Naaman was willing to try anything at this point!
- ▶ Young people, live a life so that your testimony is believable ;
1 Timothy 4:12



- ▶ The king of Aram let Naaman go and visit Israel, sending a letter with him to the king of Israel expressing Naaman's need

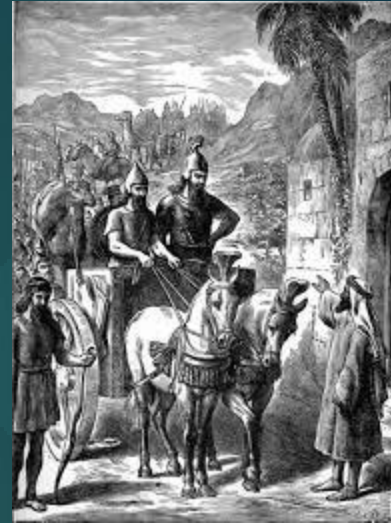
He brought with him gold, silver, and 10 sets of clothes

- ▶ Apparently Naaman shows up at the King of Israel's home; and the King wonders if the country of Aram wishes to pick a fight, by asking him for something that they should have known that he could not do
- ▶ Had the King of Israel been close to Elisha/God, or had religious leanings himself, he would have responded differently. But there was no holy response, prayers, supplications, not even a referral to the man of God (Leaders need to be God-fearing people)



Observations

- ▶ Elisha actually hears of the king of Israel's dilemma with Aram's military commander and tells his folks to tell the king of Israel's folks to have the patient come to his house
 - ▶ Naaman with his chariots, entourage, and his financial bounty now shows up at the door of Elisha
 - ▶ Elisha doesn't come out of his home but sends a messenger out to Naaman with a prescription for his disease (Humility Test #1)
 - ▶ He leaves Elisha's house in a rage but eventually follows the prescription (not his own expectations, verse 11,12, Humility Test #2) and is healed
 - ▶ He dips 7 times in the Jordan River (Humility Test #3)
- There was nothing inherently special about the Jordan (But obedience was crucial)





NOT ONLY WAS HIS PHYSICAL APPEARANCE CHANGED, BUT ALSO HIS SPIRITUAL DESIRES! (He changed Gods, verse 15)

When God heals us, He is rightfully expecting something of us.

When God pulls us out of a "ditch," He is rightfully expecting something of us.

When God advances our status in life, He is rightfully expecting something of us.

When God blesses you and your child, He is rightfully expecting something from you and your child.



God Expects Two Things From You!

#1 Thankfulness

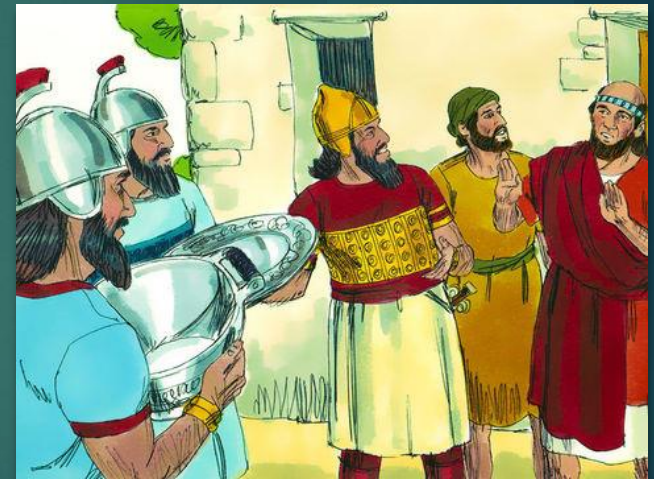
- ▶ In Luke 17:12-19, the Bible says that Jesus met 10 men, all with Leprosy, who had asked for mercy
- ▶ He granted their request, and told them to go and show themselves to the priest to be admitted back into society
- ▶ Only one of the ten, when he saw that he had been cleansed, came back to Jesus, *“He threw himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked Him”*
- ▶ Jesus then asked, verse 17, *“Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? Has no one returned to give praise to God other than this man?”*

God Expects #2 Your Service!

*“I beseech you therefore, brethren,
by the mercies of God, that you
present your bodies a living sacrifice,
holy, acceptable unto God, which is
your reasonable service.”*

Romans 12:1-2

- ▶ Having been cured of leprosy, Naaman and his entourage go back to Elisha, and as a repentant believer, offers to present a gift as a token of gratitude
- ▶ Elisha refuses any “gift,” not wanting the appearance that he was doing miracles for money
- ▶ He didn’t want the appearance that God can be paid to do miracles for you (if Naaman had paid with silver and gold, he would not have valued the significance of the miracle)
- ▶ Elisha didn’t want the appearance that he healed Naaman by his own power, *“The Elisha Ministries”*
- ▶ Elisha was “abstaining from the appearance of evil”. While doing nothing wrong, he was protecting himself and what others thought about God. He didn’t want any potential new converts to get the wrong impression of his God

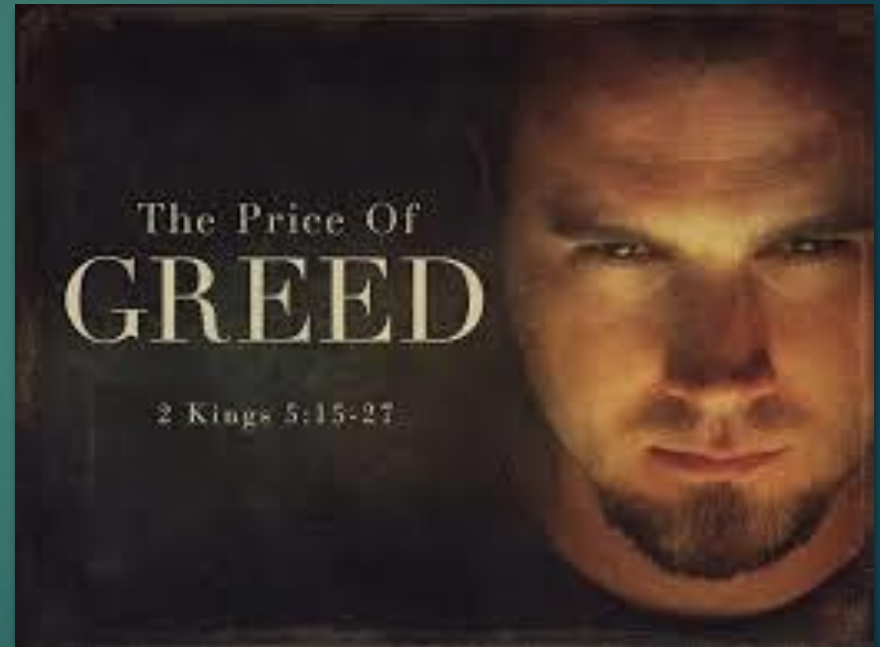


Observations

- ▶ Elisha understood that his main purpose in life was to glorify God
- ▶ He didn't want Naaman, a foreigner, to leave and say, *"I went to a foreign country and paid for a miracle!"* (That would be a bad message)
- ▶ He wanted Naaman to be able to say upon leaving, *"God showed me mercy when I know I didn't deserve it. I couldn't even pay for what happened to me!"*
- ▶ Naaman even takes some of Elisha's soil back home to use, and vowing never to sacrifice to a false God again
- ▶ He mentions, in verse 18, that he may unwilfully participate in a ritual with the king, but his heart would not be in it

What About Gehazi, a Servant of the Lord?

- ▶ He was a servant of the Lord and appeared to be bright and intelligent, picking up on some things that Elisha overlooked (2 Kings 4, Shunammite woman)
- ▶ He had been blessed to have an “up-close and personal look” at how the Lord worked in Elisha’s life (a boy raised from the dead, poisonous soup changed to a delicious meal, the leprosy of Naaman cured)
- ▶ Watching God work in a leader’s life ought to mean something to the followers. (In our homes too)



Two Things Need To Exist For Church Leadership To Flourish

- ▶ The good and consistent pattern of the leader

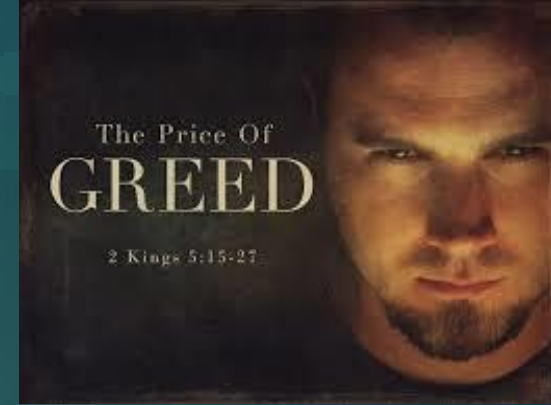
*“.... in all things showing thyself a pattern
of good works.” Titus 2:7*

- ▶ The willing reception of the followers

*“Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after
righteousness for they shall be filled.” Matthew 5:6*

***ONLY ONE OF THESE THINGS
EXISTED WITH ELISHA AND GEHAZI!***

What Problems Did Gehazi Have?



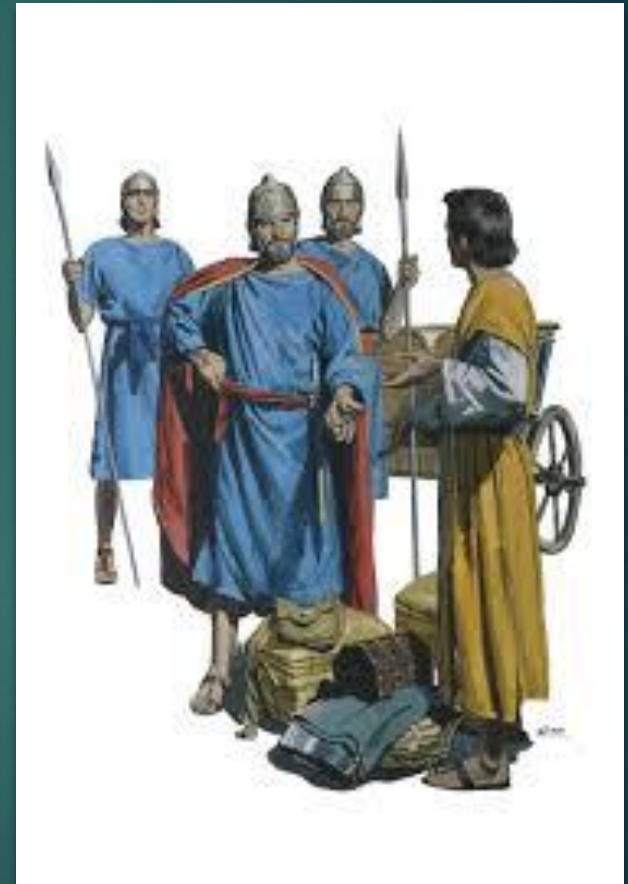
- ▶ He was ready to choose greed over service, thinking privately within himself, verse 20 (see 2 Corinthians 9:6-8)
- ▶ He felt a sense of “privilege” deserving what “this Aramean” brought with him
- ▶ Beware of the temptation of entitlement—something you feel you inherently deserve (one blood, Acts 17:26, Isaiah 64:6)
- ▶ He comes up with a deceitful way to get Naaman’s money, lying on behalf of Elisha; and by doing so, laying a stumbling block before a new convert (Naaman)
- ▶ You shouldn’t have to be dishonest to get what God wants you to have (there is no approval in scripture of sinning to get ahead, job, taxes)

Observations

- ▶ *“Is everything alright”* - This innocent question by Naaman should have been Gehazi’s first sign of a personal roadblock. Sometimes God sends messages to his children to appeal to their consciences; Hebrews 4:12, Psalms 119:11
- ▶ Gehazi lies, adding Elisha’s name to his made-up story, *“my master sent me to say,”* to create more respect for the story and increase the likelihood of getting what he wanted
- ▶ Gehazi ends up exploiting Naaman’s respect for Elisha, by deceiving him and risking a good man’s good name in the process (Greed will destroy innocent people if it has to)

Observations

- ▶ Gehazi had his eye on the money and gifts that Naaman had brought with him, that Elisha had refused to accept
- ▶ Note that when he gets the clothes and the money from Naaman, the new convert, and comes back to Elisha's property, he hides it! (that should have bothered this religious man's conscience)
- ▶ You see, with Gehazi one lie calls for another, Elisha asked Gehazi, *"Where have you been Gehazi?"*, *"Your servant didn't go anywhere"* Once again, another "conscious-question" that should have awakened this servant of God to correct his thoughts and actions



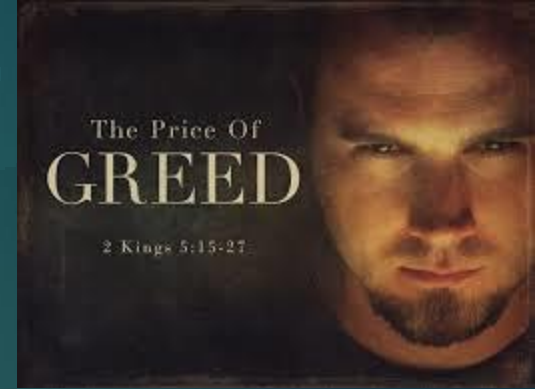
Observations

- ▶ God was doing facebook live even before there was a facebook
- ▶ Elisha told Gehazi, “Don’t you realize that my spirit was with you when the man Got down from the chariot to meet you?”

“Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.”

Hebrews 4:13

BEWARE!



GREED WILL MANIFEST ITSELF AT THE MOST INOPPORTUNE TIMES!

- ▶ Elisha asked Naaman, verse 26, “Is this, the most blessed time in Naaman’s life, the most sinful time in yours?”
- ▶ Some children, for example, will destroy all of the relationships that their deceased built, fighting over their desire of a disproportionate amount of what has been left
- ▶ Gehazi planned to improve his social status by fooling Naaman and taking Naaman’s gifts (money, sheep, cattle, groves, vineyards and servants, male and female, verse 26)
- ▶ Elisha then condemned Naaman’s leprosy to Gehazi

The Plan Of Salvation!

Hear the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Believe the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Repent of Sins

Acts 17:30

Confess Christ

Acts 8:37

Be Baptized

Acts 8:38