



**BEWARE
of DOG**

Warning!

2Kings 8:7-15

Or : Who Let The Dogs Out!

2 KINGS 8:7-15



Observations

- ▶ There are many scriptures in the Bible that tell us that God knows more about us than we sense

Hebrews 4:12-13

“For the word of God is living and powerful, and is sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow ,and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

**When My Heart Wants To Hurt Someone With My Mouth,
God Knows That!**



He Goes On To Say:

“And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.”

Hebrews 4:7

“Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts.”

**God Knows Our Intentions, Agendas, Strategies, Likes,
Dislikes, Strengths, and Weaknesses**

**The Theme Of This Lesson Is: When
Our Hearts Are Pricked By God, We
Need To Respond Appropriately!**

Observations

King Ben-hadad, the King of Syria, had fallen sick

Note: No amount of wealth, or power will protect people of status and wealth from common diseases and mishaps

- ▶ Naaman-chief officer of the Syrian army had leprosy
- ▶ President Franklin Roosevelt suffered from polio
- ▶ President Carter suffered from pancreatic cancer
- ▶ Maurice White suffered from Parkinson's disease
- ▶ Kobe Bryant, NBA great, killed in a Helicopter accident



Observations

- ▶ King Ben-hadad was in Damascus and it was told him that “*The man of God has come here.*”

Note: Elisha lived a kind of life, with such consistency and spiritual conduct, that he was known everywhere, even in neighboring towns as a “*man of God*”

How are you known in the community?

Are we known for our temper in the work-place?

Are we known for “*looking out for our own interests?*”

Are we known for our ambitious nature, leading to the mistreatment of others?



***The Very Thought Of Being
Known As A Christian
Should Bring Blessings And
Comfort To Those With
Whom You Interact Daily!***

Observations

- ▶ The King was sick enough, that it caused him to think about a possibly grim prognosis
- ▶ The feelings of a man with a serious medical condition are different from his feelings after just receiving a good physical report (*many who have lived carelessly have private questions about their mortality/finality*)
- ▶ So he asked his chief officer, Hazael, to go with some gifts to God's prophet Elisha and ask him if he would recover from his serious illness

He couldn't go himself

He sent a “gift” with his servant Hazael in hopes to gain favor

Note: God cannot be bought with our stuff!



Psalms 51:17

**“For you do not desire a sacrifice, or
else I would give it; You do delight not
in burnt offering.**

**The sacrifices of God is a broken
spirit, A broken and a contrite heart—
These, O God , You will not despise.”**

Observations

- ▶ No matter your social status, it is dangerous to surround your self with the wrong people (wife, husband, friends)
- ▶ Hazael, chief officer of Ben-hadad was one of the most repulsive men of the old testament
- ▶ As you will see, when he obeyed his master's commission, he had already decided to murder him
- ▶ The idea of bringing 40 mules loaded with gifts was a hypocritical parade of mock humility and earnestness (It was Hazael's idea; the king said "take a present in your hand" verse 8)



Did He Think He would Fool The Man Of God!

He Did Not!

Hazaël said, “Your son Ben-hadad king of Syria has sent me to you, saying, ‘Shall I recover from this disease?’”

- ▶ Elisha answered him, in essence, by saying, “ tell him that he will recover but the disease is not what will kill him”
- ▶ Then the Bible, in verse 11, says Elisha stared hard at Hazaël, “reading his heart. Hazaël felt exposed and dropped his eyes.” NLT He was ashamed of himself for what he had planned to do, kill the King. What a moment! (Remember Hebrews 4:12) But Hazaël hardened his heart!

Then Elisha Began To Weep, and Hazael Asked Why?

Elisha answered, “Because I know the evil that you will do to the children of Israel:

Their strongholds (forts) you will set on fire and their young men you will kill with the sword; and you will dash their children, and rip open their women with child.”

So Hazael said, “But what is your Servant—a dog that he should Do this gross thing?”



Hazaël asked: “But what is your servant—a dog, that he should do this gross thing?”

- ▶ Hazaël was not bemoaning the Fate of the people predicted, but his lowly status in life to do something so mighty ; “How could a nobody like me ever accomplish such great things?” NLT verse 13
- ▶ Elisha answered him by saying because the Lord revealed to me that you will become King over Syria
- ▶ So Hazaël gets an unexpected glimpse of His Crown
- ▶ His Dog Was “Unrestrained Ambition”



If He Wanted To Make A Dog Comparison Relative to Character!

He Would Be This One!



Not This One!



- ▶ Hazaël goes back to the King and tells him that Elisha said he would recover
- ▶ Then, the next day, he takes a towel, soaks it with water, puts it over the king's face, suffocating him, and then takes over his kingdom





Beware Of Your Dog!

"I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me." Romans 7:21

Unrestrained Ambition Pride Greed
Lust For Things Forbidden Envy
Idolatry Lying for Selfish Gain
Covetousness



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