

The Sins of Gehazi

2 **Kings** 5:20-27

Historical Background

- ◆ The period of the divided kingdom
- ◆ Moab rebels against Israel after Ahab's death (2 Kings 3:4)
- ◆ Israel, Judah and Edom join forces to battle against the Moabites and successfully defeat them (2 Kings 3:7ff)

Elisha

- ◆ Elisha takes the mantle of Elijah and becomes a prophet in Israel; a successor (2 Kings 2:11-12)
- ◆ Elisha is able to perform many wonders as a prophet of God

Gehazi

- ◆ 2 Kings 4:12, "And he said to Gehazi his servant, call this Shunammite. And when he had called her, she stood before him."
- ◆ Was with Elisha in Shunem (2 Kings 4:8)
- ◆ Was involved with Elisha and the Shunammite woman (2 Kings 4:12-16)
- ◆ He was serving in some critical roles!

Naaman

- ◆ 2 Kings 5:1, "Now Naaman, captain of the host of the king of Syria, was a great man with his master, and honorable, because by him Jehovah had given victory unto Syria: he was also a mighty man of valor, but he was a leper."
- ◆ Naaman was in a notable position of honor with a reputation to follow

The Backstory

- ◆ 2 Kings 5:1-19
- ◆ Syria took a little maiden captive of Israel (verse 2)
- ◆ She waited on Naaman's wife (verse 2)
- ◆ She told her mistress that a prophet in Samaria could heal Naaman (verse 3)
- ◆ A letter was sent to the King of Israel (verse 5)

The Backstory

- ◆ 2 Kings 5:1-19
- ◆ The King of Israel thought the King of Syria was trying to cause a quarrel (verse 7)
- ◆ Elisha received news of this and told the King he was willing to see Naaman (verses 8-9)
- ◆ Naaman told to dip seven times in the Jordan (verse 10)

The Backstory

- ◆ 2 Kings 5:1-19
- ◆ "Behold, I thought ..." (verse 11)
- ◆ His servant spoke to him and Naaman relented, following the prophet's instructions, being cleansed (verses 12-14)
- ◆ Naaman offered a present to Elisha (verse 15)
- ◆ Elisha refused (verse 16)
- ◆ Naaman asked for God's pardon when he had to bow before Rimmon at his master's request (verses 17-19)
- ◆ He departs a little way (verse 19)

The Backstory

- ◆ 2 Kings 5:20-27
- ◆ Gehazi is not satisfied with his master's decision (verses 20-21)
- ◆ He decides to take matters into his own hands and deceive Naaman to obtain the gifts intended for Elisha (verses 21-24)

The Backstory

- ◆ 2 Kings 5:20-27
- ◆ Gehazi enters in and stands before Elisha (verse 25)
- ◆ Elisha exposes his sins (verse 26)
- ◆ Gehazi became a leper (verse 27)
- ◆ In this backdrop, Gehazi committed egregious sins. There are lessons to learn from him

The Sins of Gehazi

- ◆ 2 Kings 5:20-27
- ◆ Disregarded his master's judgment (verse 20)
- ◆ Stepped out of place (verse 20)
- ◆ Greedy (verses 20, 23)
- ◆ Lies (verses 21-22, 25)

Lessons from Gehazi

- ◆ Disregarding sound judgment is not wise
- ◆ "As Jehovah liveth, I will run after him, and take somewhat of him." (verse 20)
- ◆ Gehazi thought he knew better than Elisha, a man appointed by God as a prophet

Lessons from Gehazi

- ◆ Disregarding sound judgment is not wise
- ◆ Peter disregarded God's judgment; clear New Testament truth
- ◆ Acts 10:28, "And he said unto them, Ye yourselves know how it is an unlawful thing for a man that is a Jew to join himself or come unto one of another nation; and yet unto me hath God showed that I should not call any man common or unclean."

Lessons from Gehazi

- ◆ Disregarding sound judgment is not wise
- ◆ Galatians 2:11-13, "But when Cephas came to Antioch, I resisted him to the face, because he stood condemned. For before that certain came from James, he ate with the Gentiles; but when they came, he drew back and separated himself, fearing them that were of the circumcision. And the rest of the Jews dissembled likewise with him; insomuch that even Barnabas was carried away with their dissimulation."
- ◆ How ironic that Peter did this!

Lessons from Gehazi

- ◆ Disregarding sound judgment is not wise
- ◆ Peter's actions caused him to stand condemned (Galatians 2:11)
- ◆ He was confronted by Paul!
- ◆ We need to pay attention to God's wisdom and judgment (Ephesians 5:17)
"Wherefore be ye not foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is."

Lessons from Gehazi

- ◆ Stepping out of place is not a good idea
- ◆ Gehazi stepped out of place pursuing Naaman
- ◆ Peter stepped out of place
- ◆ Matthew 17:4, "And Peter answered and said unto Jesus, Lord it is good for us to be here: if thou wilt, I will make here three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

Lessons from Gehazi

- ◆ Stepping out of place is not a good idea
- ◆ Peter was rebuked by the Father!
- ◆ Matthew 17:5, "While he was yet speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold, a voice out of the cloud, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him."

Lessons from Gehazi

- ◆ Greed will destroy you
- ◆ Gehazi wanted what Elisha rejected
- ◆ "As Jehovah liveth, I will run after him, and take somewhat of him." (verse 20)
- ◆ Proverbs 15:27, "He that is greedy of gain troubleth his own house."
- ◆ Proverbs 28:25, "He that is of a greedy spirit stirreth up strife; but he that putteth his trust in Jehovah shall be made fat."

Lessons from Gehazi

- ◆ Greed will destroy you
- ◆ 1 Timothy 6:6-10, “But godliness with contentment is great gain: for we brought nothing into the world, for neither can we carry anything out; but having food and covering we shall be therewith content. But they that are minded to be rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and hurtful lusts, such as drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love money is the root of all kinds of evil: which some reaching after have led astray from the faith, and have pierced themselves through with many sorrows.”

Lessons from Gehazi

- ◆ Greed will cost you your soul
- ◆ Matthew 19:21-22, “The young man saith unto him, All these things have I observed: what lack I yet? Jesus said unto him, If thou wouldest be perfect, go, sell that which thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me. But when the young man heard the saying, he went away sorrowful; for he was one that had great possessions. And Jesus said unto his disciples, Verily I say unto you, It is hard for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of heaven.”

Lessons from Gehazi

Lies will cost you

- ◆ Gehazi lied to Naaman and Elisha
- ◆ 2 Kings 5:22, “And he said, All is well. My master hath sent me, saying, Behold, even now there are come to me from the hill-country of Ephraim two young men of the sons of the prophets; give them, I pray thee, a talent of silver, and two changes of raiment.”
- ◆ 2 Kings 5:25, “But he went in, and stood before his master. And Elisha said unto him, Whence comest thou, Gehazi? And he said, Thy servant went no whither.”

Lessons from Gehazi

Lying is wrong

- ◆ Lying is a fundamental integrity issue. Trust is broken.
- ◆ Lying is sin – Colossians 3:9, “Lie not one to another, seeing you have put off the old man with his doings.”
- ◆ Lying will cost you your soul – Revelation 21:8, “But for the fearful, and unbelieving, and abominable, and murderers, and fornicators, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, their part [shall be] in the lake that burneth with fire and brimstone; which is the second death.”

Lessons from Gehazi

Lies will be discovered

- ◆ Acts 5 – “Lied and died in five” [mg]
- ◆ Peter – Luke 22:57, “But he denied, saying, Woman, I know him not.”
- ◆ Luke 22:61, – The Lord looked at Peter; he knew his scheme was known.

The Bigger Lesson

Gehazi’s Life Lesson

- ◆ He had the opportunity to serve a prophet of God!
- ◆ He blew it and it affected his credibility, his health and his family
- ◆ We today have a grand opportunity as children of God to serve and do many great things!
- ◆ Don’t blow it!