

"Naaman the Leper"

Part 5

2 Kings 5:15-27

Introduction: Tonight, in our study of Elisha and his miracles we are again returning to the story of Naaman the leper. In our text Naaman has been healed of his leprosy and now there is going to be another miracle with negative implications. We will get to our text in a few moments but before we do there are some thoughts we need to consider.

The Bible is very clear that we are to be content with what God has given to us as we pass through this life. The Bible tells us that godliness with contentment is a great accomplishment.

1 Timothy 6:6-8

⁶ But godliness with contentment is great gain.

⁷ For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.

⁸ And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.

There are however many who have not mastered their desire for "more" and that weakness and desire have brought many sorrows into their lives.

1 Timothy 6:9-12

⁹ But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.

¹⁰ For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

¹¹ But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.

¹² Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

The sin of greed will cause a man or a woman to walk in darkness and they will be blinded to their own sinful actions.

In the Bible the sin of greed is referred to as have an "EVIL EYE".

Proverbs 28:22

²² He that hasteth to be rich hath an evil eye, and considereth not that poverty shall come upon him.

Now let us notice what Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount concerning greed.

Matthew 6:19-24

¹⁹ Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:

²⁰ But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

²¹ For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

²² The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light.

²³ But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!

²⁴ No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

Getting back to 2 Kings tonight we shall see that Elisha had a man who traveled with him whose name was Gehazi. We first met him in 2 Kings 4:12

Notice 2 Kings 4:12

He was a servant of Elisha and he was probably a young man who was training under Elisha. Tonight, as we look closely at Gehazi we shall see all the warnings of 1 Timothy 6 and Matthew 6 unfold in his life.

"The Greed of Gehazi"

When Naaman was healed it was his desire to give a payment to Elisha but Elisha would take no payment.

Notice 2 Kings 5:15-16

Elisha was being very careful with this situation. He wanted to be sure that when Naaman returned home that his testimony about the God of Israel who had healed was that God took absolutely nothing from him except his leprosy. The healing of Naaman was a picture of salvation and so to keep the typology accurate Elisha could take nothing in return.

But Gehazi was not so careful. He allowed his eyes to focus upon the riches which Naaman had brought with him and he listened very carefully as Naaman offered blessings to Elisha. Gehazi was faced with temptation and he failed the test. We see in Gehazi a living picture of what James wrote.

James 1:12-15

¹² *Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.*

¹³ *Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:*

¹⁴ *But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.*

¹⁵ *Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.*

The word "enticed" here in verse 14 means "to be baited". A man is tempted by a bait that entices the flesh. He then begins to lust after the bait and after this process goes so far there is a conception which takes place and we know that when there is a conception there is going to be a birth.

Gehazi lusted after the riches and he refused to turn away and flee the temptation. The bait appealed to the flesh and lust conceived and as we move on we shall see that sin will be born. Let me remind you that temptation is not sin. For Gehazi to be tempted was not a sin but his lust was sin and his lust is about to lead him down a path of poor decisions.

Notice 2 Kings 5:20

The first word in the verse tells of a contrast between Elisha and Gehazi. Here is the first poor decision we see because of his lust for the riches. He made a choice to go against the will of Elisha. This was rebellion against his master.

Application:

This is what happens when we allow the lusts of the flesh to control us. Our lust leads us into rebellion against our Lord and it causes us to make choices without thinking through the consequences. There are always consequences with sin but when lust conceives we become blind to all warnings and consequences.

Matthew 6:23a

²³ *But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness...*

When lust and greed sit on the throne within man's heart the man finds himself walking in darkness and making many poor decisions.

James 1:8

⁸ A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.

Now as we continue we shall see Gehazi continue to spiral downward as he is controlled by his greed and his lust.

Notice 2 Kings 5:21-22

Here we see Gehazi sinking deeper as now he resorts to lying when he told Naaman that Elisha had sent him to receive riches for two other servants. This was all a lie. This should make us realize the sinful heart of man will go to any length to get what he covets.

Notice 2 Kings 5:23-24

Gehazi should have been shocked to his senses when Naaman used the phrase "BE CONTENT". But the statement never penetrated the sinful heart of Gehazi. Greed and lust will cause a man to miss every warning which God places before him. Let us remember that lust has conceived in Gehazi and he is determined to follow through. After he receives the riches he takes them and hides them in the house.

This is the attempt to cover up his sin. This is a reaction which all of mankind has learned from our first father.

Genesis 3:6-8

⁶ And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

⁷ And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.

⁸ And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.

Adam and Eve did their best to cover up their sin, but it was all exposed by God.

Application:

The sinful heart of man will go to great lengths to cover up his sin. Let us remember what King David did in an attempt to cover his sin.

2 Samuel 11:8-17

⁸ And David said to Uriah, Go down to thy house, and wash thy feet. And Uriah departed out of the king's house, and there followed him a mess of meat from the king.

⁹ But Uriah slept at the door of the king's house with all the servants of his lord, and went not down to his house.

¹⁰ And when they had told David, saying, Uriah went not down unto his house, David said unto Uriah, Camest thou not from thy journey? why then didst thou not go down unto thine house?

¹¹ And Uriah said unto David, The ark, and Israel, and Judah, abide in tents; and my lord Joab, and the servants of my lord, are encamped in the open fields; shall I then go into mine house, to eat and to drink, and to lie with my wife? as thou livest, and as thy soul liveth, I will not do this thing.

¹² And David said to Uriah, Tarry here to day also, and to morrow I will let thee depart. So Uriah abode in Jerusalem that day, and the morrow.

¹³ And when David had called him, he did eat and drink before him; and he made him drunk: and at even he went out to lie on his bed with the servants of his lord, but went not down to his house.

¹⁴ And it came to pass in the morning, that David wrote a letter to Joab, and sent it by the hand of Uriah.

¹⁵ And he wrote in the letter, saying, Set ye Uriah in the forefront of the hottest battle, and retire ye from him, that he may be smitten, and die.

¹⁶ And it came to pass, when Joab observed the city, that he assigned Uriah unto a place where he knew that valiant men were.

¹⁷ And the men of the city went out, and fought with Joab: and there fell some of the people of the servants of David; and Uriah the Hittite died also.

He tried to get Uriah to sleep with Bathsheba so people would think the baby was his but Uriah was a man of integrity and would not do so while his men were at war. So David had him killed so that he could marry Bathsheba in an attempt to make it look like nothing wrong went on.

Both David and Gehazi believed they had successfully covered their sin. But they had forgotten the Word of the Lord.

Numbers 32:23

²³ *But if ye will not do so, behold, ye have sinned against the LORD: and **be sure your sin will find you out.***

Notice 2 Kings 5:25-26

Elisha knew what Gehazi had done and so his sin was exposed. This was revealed to him by the Lord.

Notice 2 Kings 5:27

The consequences were far greater than Gehazi could have imagined. He now was infected with the leprosy which Naaman had been cured of.

The lesson here is one we must not forget, **“Sin will take you further than you want to go, and it will cost you more than you want to pay.”**

Let me show you another situation where the consequences were devastating.

Acts 5:1-10

But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession,

² *And kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles' feet.*

³ *But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land?*

⁴ *Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.*

⁵ *And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things.*

⁶ *And the young men arose, wound him up, and carried him out, and buried him.*

⁷ *And it was about the space of three hours after, when his wife, not knowing what was done, came in.*

⁸ *And Peter answered unto her, Tell me whether ye sold the land for so much? And she said, Yea, for so much.*

⁹ Then Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband are at the door, and shall carry thee out.

¹⁰ Then fell she down straightway at his feet, and yielded up the ghost: and the young men came in, and found her dead, and, carrying her forth, buried her by her husband.

Now let me tell you one reason why the consequences were so severe for Elisha. When he took the riches, he ruined a picture of how salvation is by grace through faith alone. God is very protective of the typology in His Word. Let me show you another situation that happened.

Numbers 20:7-12

⁷ And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

⁸ Take the rod, and gather thou the assembly together, thou, and Aaron thy brother, and speak ye unto the rock before their eyes; and it shall give forth his water, and thou shalt bring forth to them water out of the rock: so thou shalt give the congregation and their beasts drink.

⁹ And Moses took the rod from before the LORD, as he commanded him.

¹⁰ And Moses and Aaron gathered the congregation together before the rock, and he said unto them, Hear now, ye rebels; must we fetch you water out of this rock?

¹¹ And Moses lifted up his hand, and with his rod he smote the rock twice: and the water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their beasts also.

¹² And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron, Because ye believed me not, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore ye shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them.

Moses struck the Rock twice and by doing so he ruined an Old Testament type of Christ. The Rock was a picture of Jesus and Moses had already struck the Rock once before which was a picture of Christ's death on the cross. When Moses struck it the second time he ruined the type because Jesus DIED ONCE FOR ALL. The consequences were that he would NOT lead Israel into Canaan.

Conclusion:

All sin is very costly. Let us learn to be content with what God has given to us. Godliness with contentment is great gain.