

The Best Intentions

II Kings 5:20-27

1. Intro

1. Recall the story of Elisha and Naaman.
2. Today we see the servant that was involved.
 1. He starts well but finishes badly.

2. Gehazi

1. Elisha has a servant called Gehazi (Ge-Hehz-eye) (20)
2. Was Gehazi going to be a successor to Elisha?
 1. Elisha was to Elijah as Joshua was to Moses
 2. Called a servant (minister) (II Kings 4:43), as was Elisha (I Kings 19-21)
 1. Joshua was called Moses' servant (minister)

3. Sin Messes Things Up

1. Can sin prevent a man from taking his natural place as a successor of God's prophets?
2. Things seen in Chp 4.
 1. He is perceptive (14)
 1. Realized the Shunammite woman had no son.
 2. He is protective, but without compassion (27)
 1. Guarded Elisha from inopportune people
 1. Wanted to keep the Shunammite woman away.
 3. He is willing (31)
 1. Did what Elisha said
 1. Staff on the young boy's face.
3. Things seen in Chp 5
 1. He is greedy (20)
 1. Swears an oath, "As the Lord lives"
 1. "If it is the last thing I do"
 2. Wanted some of the money Naaman offered.
 1. Used the pretext of getting it for Elisha
 2. He is deceptive (22)
 1. "Everything is fine".
 1. Deceived Naaman
 2. Misrepresented Elisha
 1. Two young prophets
 3. He is a liar (22)
 1. To Naaman
 2. Told a lie about another man.
 3. To Elisha (25)

4. Brought Elisha's testimony into disrepute
 1. Now is not the time for money (26)
 1. God's handiwork was to be shown to the Aramean king and to Naaman.
 2. Some "prophets" worked for money. (Micah 3:11; Acts 8:18-20)
5. Was the sacred turned into commonplace?
 1. Had been around the miracles of God so long that they became ordinary.
 2. Compare with Judas. (John 12:1-8)
6. He paid a price for his deception and lying. (27)

4. Application

1. We live in the daily presence of God.
 1. What is our desire?
 1. Desire rules conduct.
 2. Because we have free will we have a choice.
 1. Do I obey
 2. Do I obey, but on my terms (how it suits me)
 1. I am too busy
 2. Later in life
2. We may start out with the best intentions
 1. Gehazi did
3. There is a possibility of taking a wrong turn.
 1. We may not have the original opportunity again.
 2. We may pay a price
4. We may live in the presence of God so long that God becomes insignificant.
 1. Taken for granted.

5. Conclusion

1. Gehazi started out well, but did not finish well.
2. Being in the presence of God became commonplace.
3. A great price was paid for not being obedient.