

Elijah and Elisha

#16, greed, II Kings 5:15-27

Naaman returned to Elisha's house trailed, by donkeys that labored under the weight of the gold, silver and changes of clothing.

15 When he returned to the man of God with all his company, and came and stood before him, he said, "Behold now, I know that there is no God in all the earth, but in Israel; so please take a present from your servant now." 16 But he said, "As the Lord lives, before whom I stand, I will take nothing." And he urged him to take it, but he refused.

17 Naaman said, "If not, please let your servant at least be given two mules' load of earth; for your servant will no longer offer burnt offering nor will he sacrifice to other gods, but to the Lord.

[1.] v:15, a present, Write down some things Naaman offered Elisha.

[2.] v:16, How did Elisha respond to the offer?

[3.] v:17, load of earth, Considering the MacArthur note (below) why would Naaman want the soil?

In the ancient Near East it was thought that a god could be worshipped only on the soil of the nation to which it was bound. Therefore, Naaman wanted a load of Israelite soil on which to make burnt offerings and sacrifice to the Lord when he returned to Damascus. The request confirmed how Naaman changed – whereas he had previously disparaged Israel's river, now he wanted to take a pile of Israel's soil to Damascus.

MacArthur Study Bible

18 "In this matter may the Lord pardon your servant: when my master goes into the house of Rimmon (Syrian diety) to worship there, and he leans on my hand and I bow myself in the house of Rimmon, when I bow myself in the house of Rimmon, the Lord pardon your servant in this matter." 19 He said to him, "Go in peace." So he departed from him some distance.

[4.] v:18, to worship, What false god did the king of Aram worship?

[5.] v:18 again, bow myself, Naaman asked forgiveness for something he knew was going to happen. What was it?

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20 But Gehazi, the servant of Elisha the man of God, thought, "Behold, my master has spared this Naaman the Aramean, by not receiving from his hands what he brought. As the Lord lives, I will run after him and take something from him."

21 So Gehazi pursued Naaman. When Naaman saw one running after him, he came down from the chariot to meet him and said, "Is all well?" 22 He said, "All is well. My master has sent me, saying, 'Behold, just now two young men of the sons of the prophets have come to me from the hill country of Ephraim. Please give them a talent of silver and two changes of clothes.'"

[6.] v:19, He said to him, What was Elisha's response to Naaman's request?

[7.] Something to think about. As a new covenant believer, where are we required to go to worship God?

[8.] v:20, But Gehazi, By not taking Naaman's gift, what did he think Elisha had done?

[9.] v:20 again, I will, How did he propose the fix the problem?

[10.] v:21, When Naaman saw, From this verse, how can one tell that Naaman recognized Gehazi?

[11.] v:21-22, 'Behold, just now, What were the facts of Gehazi's story, that made it believable to Naaman?

[12.] v:21-22 again, My master, How would Gehazi's job make his story more believable?

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23 Naaman said, " Be pleased to take two talents." And he urged him, and bound two talents of silver in two bags with two changes of clothes and gave them to two of his servants; and they carried them before him.

24 When he came to the hill, he took them from their hand and deposited them in the house, and he sent the men away, and they departed.

25 But he went in and stood before his master. And Elisha said to him, "Where have you been, Gehazi?" And he said, " Your servant went nowhere."

26 Then he said to him, "Did not my heart go with you, when the man turned from his chariot to meet you? Is it a time to receive money and to receive clothes and olive groves and vineyards and sheep and oxen and male and female servants?"

[13.] v:23, Be pleased, **What was the difference in what Gehazi asked for and what Naaman gave him?**

[14.] v:24, from their hand, **Why would Gehazi take the gifts from Naaman's servants before he went into see Elisha?**

[15.] v:25, Where have you been, **Why might you think that Elisha already knew the answer to his own question?**

[16.] Question [15.], **What lie did Gehazi tell in answering the question?**

[17.] v:26, Did not my heart go with you, **From the below possibilities, choose what best fits the meaning of this phrase.**

a) I had spies watching you.

b) You're always off somewhere.

c) My heart ached for you when you were tempted by greed

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27 "Therefore, the leprosy of Naaman shall cling to you and to your descendants forever." So he went out from his presence a leper as white as snow.

[18.] v:26 again, Is it a time, In a nation hopelessly lost in misery and idolatry, what was Gehazi really concerned about?

[19.] Why couldn't Elisha no longer use Gehazi?

[20.] v:27, of Naaman, What did Gehazi receive that also belonged to Naaman?

NOTES