

“What’s In It For Me?” (The Gehazi Syndrome) II Kings 5:19-27

3 men: Elisha, living for what he can _____, not what he can _____; Naaman, who is grateful for his healing, and his gratitude motivated him to want to give – but our lesson today is on Gehazi, who was definitely tuned in to radio station WIIFM. Sin has consequences for generations.

I. WHAT DID GEHAZI DO? In a nutshell, he brought God’s _____ and His prophet into question.

- A. He used “God’s work” as a cover for his _____ – v. 22
- B. He brought _____ on Elisha. – v. 22, 25
- C. He _____ the message of God’s free grace.

II. WHAT DOES GEHAZI TEACH US?

A. Being involved in God’s work doesn’t guarantee your holiness.

II Kings 4:42-44 Had he not learned from the jar of oil (4:1-7), or the raising of the boy from the dead? It’s not enough to know “_____” God. You must know God personally.

Have we moved from being a spectator to being a fully-involved follower of Christ?

B. We must focus on our relationship with GOD, not what we _____ for Him. Matt. 7 - ²¹“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. ²²Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?’ ²³Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’

C. We must focus on being _____ – I Tim. 6 I Tim. 6: 3 If anyone teaches otherwise (other than what Paul has been telling Timothy to teach through this Book) and does not agree to the sound instruction of our Lord Jesus Christ and to godly teaching, ⁴they are conceited and understand nothing. They have an unhealthy interest in controversies and quarrels about words that result in envy, strife, malicious talk, evil suspicions ⁵and constant friction between people of corrupt mind, who have been robbed of the truth and who think that godliness is a means to financial gain. ⁶ But godliness with contentment is great gain. ⁷ For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. ⁸ But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. ⁹ Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. ¹¹ But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. ¹² Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

The word Paul uses in v. 6 (translated “contentment”) – was used by the culture of the day to mean “self-sufficient”. Paul elevates the concept from being merely self-sufficient to being _____ – sufficient. You could summarize it: sufficient and satisfied; contented and competent, through God’s help.

v. 3 and 9 & 10 sum up the “Gehazi Syndrome” in NT terms:

Wrong philosophy – v. 3

Wrong _____ – v, 9,10

Contrast the Gehazi Syndrome with Paul’s attitude: Phil. 4:10-13 - ¹⁰I rejoiced greatly in the Lord that at last you renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you were concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. ¹¹I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. ¹²I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. ¹³I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

“Have learned”: Contentment does not come naturally (even to Christians), but only supernaturally as one learns that this life is no longer me living but Christ living in and through me.

Bottom line: Heb. 13:5,6: ⁵Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.” ⁶So we say with confidence, “The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?”

CONCL. II Kings 8

