

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Why were the words of the little girl accepted by Naaman?
2. As with Naaman, there is much bitterness in the hearts of many today. Why?
3. What is necessary for us today to be cleansed of sin?
4. What can we learn from Elisha's ministry to Naaman?

SUMMARY:

A little girl, a humble slave, spoke from her heart. The message was simple but full of faith and because of this was impressive to the hearers. The afflicted person was proud, a man of high standing. He thought surely his position and his supply of gifts would cause the man of God to come to him and through some ritual heal him. How wrong he was. He had to come down off his "high horse" and submerge himself in the waters of Jordan. Only by doing as he was instructed, in complete obedience, was he healed.

Likewise today the message of salvation spoken by humble, faithful, believing witnesses is effectual. [\[SoF:15\]](#) A haughty, affluent testimony is rejected. Salvation is given to those who humble themselves and become obedient to the gospel message and the commands of Jesus Christ. [\[SoF:7\]](#)

NOTES:

[\[SoF:7\]](#) We believe that sinners may have salvation by repentance toward God and faith in Jesus Christ.

[\[SoF:15\]](#) We believe that the Great Commission of our Lord Jesus Christ is an invitation for everyone to live a life of abandonment to Him, Who loved us and gave Himself for us - surrendering His personal ambitions and possessions in an unreserved committal to take the proclamation of the Gospel throughout "all the world to every creature".

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #10

June 3, 2018

Second Quarter

ELISHA MINISTERS TO NAAMAN

LESSON TEXT: *2 Kings 5:1-18*

LESSON SETTING: Naaman, the Syrian army officer, in Samaria

TIME: Approximately 894 B.C.

- I. A HUMBLE WITNESS.** *2 Kings 5:1-4*
 - A. Compassionate Witness (vs. 3) *Acts 26:29*
 - B. A Youthful Witness (vs. 3) *1 Samuel 2:26; 2 Chronicles 34:1-3*
- II. A PROUD SUFFERER.** *2 Kings 5:5-12*
 - A. Anger (vs. 11) *Psalm 37:8; Proverbs 14:17*
 - B. Pride (vs. 11) *Exodus 5:2; Proverbs 11:2*
 - C. Stubbornness (vs. 12) *Exodus 9:34-35 1 Samuel 8:19*
- III. AN OBEDIENT BELIEVER.** *2 Kings 5:13-18*
 - A. Submission to God (vs. 14) *Romans 6:13; James 4:7*
 - B. Obedience to His Word (vs. 14) *Joshua 11:15; Revelation 22:14*
 - C. Healing Effected (vs. 14) *Luke 17:12-14; John 5:5-9; 9:1-7*
 - D. Conversion (vs. 17) *Luke 8:28, 35; John 4:17-29; Acts 9:3-6*

GOLDEN TEXT: *FOR AS THE HEAVENS ARE HIGHER THAN THE EARTH, SO ARE MY WAYS HIGHER THAN YOUR WAYS, AND MY THOUGHTS THAN YOUR THOUGHTS.* *Isaiah 55:9*

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: 2 Kings 13:14-21

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: Genesis 50:22-26;
Deuteronomy 34:1-8;
2 Timothy 4:1-8

QUARTERLY THEME: Kings and Prophets of Israel

TOPIC: ELISHA'S FINAL PROPHECY

INTRODUCTION:

We hear so much today about people retiring when they reach a certain age. Even in the service of our King, the Lord Jesus, there are those who have expressed that the older brothers and sisters in faith take to the "rocking chairs." However, this could not be any further from the right. Only God is to determine when a person is no longer to be active for Him. It is not for any one of us to determine when a person has reached the end of this usefulness for Christ. Suppose some of the lesser prophets had determined that Elisha was too old. Would this have altered God's use of Elisha? Certainly not!

Elisha was a forceful witness for God all of his lifetime. Our lesson explains that even on His deathbed the king came to him to learn of God's will. Even now in his feebleness he proclaimed God's will and His judgment. Nothing had dulled his wisdom and the power of God's spirit in him.

Even after his death his bones still were a power used of God in a miraculous way to raise up a dead man who had been laid on him.

If we faithfully serve God he will use us to our last breath. No human can hinder our ability to be used of God. If we have lived our lives to His honor our witness will go on many years after we are called out of this life and we will be an influence in the lives of many others. It is sad that often a person's greatest influence is felt after he or she has been taken to their reward. Often only then do men realize that the real life can be lived.

CENTRAL TRUTH: Old age, and even death, need not end the effectiveness of a godly life and ministry.

GOLDEN TEXT: . . . *CHRIST SHALL BE MAGNIFIED IN MY BODY, WHETHER IT BE BY LIFE, OR BY DEATH.* Philippians 1:20

The Apostle Paul was a real witness for Christ. Nothing restrained him in his service. Beatings, stonings, shipwrecks, want: all these had no effect on his ministry. Truly he could say that Christ would be magnified in him. But how do we react? How quickly adversity stills our lips and dims our light. How often have we been ready to crawl into a shell when something went against us?

Elisha too was this same kind of witness. During his lifetime whenever men desired to know of God they looked to Elisha and he in turn revealed God's will to them. His influence was very great and even after he died his body still magnified God by becoming a spiritual power great enough to revive a person who had died and whose dead body was laid on the bones of Elisha.

It is not important whether or not we have that kind of power, but it is important that our lives be lived in such a way that men can see that God through Christ Jesus lives in us. Many of our departed brothers and sisters in Christ still influence us in the outliving of our lives.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF June 4 – 10

- M. Joseph's Final Prophecy. Genesis 50:22-36
- T. Moses' Final Days. Deuteronomy 34:1-8
- W. Samuel's Final Proclamation. 1 Samuel 12:1-15
- T. David's Final Instructions. 1 Kings 2:1-10
- F. *Elisha's Final Prophecy. 2 Kings 13:14-21
- S. Elisha's Death and Continuing Ministry. 2 Kings 13:20-25
- S. Paul's Final Testimony. 2 Timothy 4:1-8

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