

Gehazi's Greed & Punishment

2 Kings 5:19b-27

- I. **RACISM** (1 Sam 16:7; Acts 10:34; 17:26-27; Rom 2:11; 3:29-30; 1 Cor 12:13; Col 3:11)—*“discrimination or prejudice based on race.”*
- A. **Nobody deserves God's free grace.** (Deut 7:7; 9:5; Dan 9:18; Ezek 36:32; Rom 3:23-24)—all have sinned and fall short
- B. **God's plan of redemption has always included Gentiles.** (Isa 49:6; 56:3; Jn 10:16; Mat 28:19)
1. **In the OT, God accepted any Gentiles who wanted to join His people.** (Isa 56:3, 6-8)
 2. **In the NT, Jesus opened the door and invited people from all nations to come.** (Mat 28:19; Lk 13:28-30)
- C. **The gospel dispels any notion of ethnic superiority.** (Rom 3:10, 22-24; 4:16)—none of us deserve the kindness of God's free grace.
1. **All nations descended from one man.** (Act 17:26)—Adam, corrupted by sin
 2. **Jesus reconciles people of all nations to one another.** (Eph 2:14-19; Gal 3:28-29; Col 3:11)
 3. **The church is made up of people redeemed from every tribe and nation.** (Rev 7:9-10)
- II. **GREED**—*the love of money*
- A. **Greed is idolatry.** (Mat 6:24; Col 3:5)—*eclipses the love and fear of God*
- B. **Greed makes a person susceptible to corruption.** (1 Tim 3:3; 6:9-10)—*a root of all kinds of evil*
- C. **Greed undermines our witness.**
- D. **We must guard our hearts from greed.** (Prov 4:23)
1. **Feeling Entitled**
 2. **Resenting God's Generosity to someone else.**

III. **LYING** (25; Prov 6:16-17; 12:22)—*deception*

A. **Motives**

1. **To take advantage of someone**—in this case Naaman
2. **To cover another sin**—to keep his sin secret from Elisha

B. **Why God Hates It**

1. **Lying is contrary to His nature.** (Jn 14:16; Heb 6:18;)
2. **Lying is the language of the devil.** (Jn 8:44)
3. **Lying destroys relationship.** (1 Jn 1:6-9)
4. **Lying (refusing to confess sin) mocks God.** (1 Jn 1:10; Act 5:4, 9)

IV. **LEPROSY** (Isa 64:5b-6)—*a picture of our human condition apart from Christ*

A. **Gehazi's Punishment is a Revelation of Inner Reality: an ugly soul.**

1. **Religious does not mean Righteous.**
2. **Nothing is hidden from God, except what is covered by Christ.** (Heb 4:13)

B. **Disease is a Picture of Our Fallen Condition: Unclean** (Isa 64:5b-6)

1. **Spiritually unfit** (Rom 3:22b-23)—**cursed by God, separated from Him**
2. **Socially debilitating** (Lev 13:45-46)—**shunned by people, unfit for company**

C. **Healing is a Picture of God's Free Grace: Christ** (Rom 6:4; Col 2:12-14)

1. **Power to Heal** (Heb 7:25)—*physically & spiritually, completely, ultimately*
2. **Willingness to Heal** (Jn 6:37; Mat 8:2-3)
3. **Restored Relationship**—with God and with other people.

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