

The Logic of Gehazi

"My master was too easy on Naaman, this Aramean, by not accepting from him what he brought. As surely as the Lord lives, I will run after him and get something from him."

Naaman received healing which he never thought was possible. He was so happy of the outcome that he came to Elisha with plenty of valuable gifts. But Elisha refused to receive anything even though he and his disciples were probably struggling to meet their daily needs. He proved to the general that his God or he could not be bribed. When Naaman could not persuade him Naaman decided to change himself. He said from now on he will not serve any other god but the Lord and he asked for some soil to be given to him from Israel presumably to build an altar to sacrifice to the Lord and he went on his way rejoicing over the great blessing he received.

Gehazi had a little stirring in his heart after Naaman left. "We are struggling to have enough food and clothes. How many times have we starved in the past few weeks? I cannot even remember when I had a new shirt. It is the same for all the others too. A great opportunity came knocking at the door but my master shut that door tight. He was too easy on Naaman." Gehazi could not get over the missed opportunity to get some nice 'foreign' things. He reasoned with his logic and decided to go after Naaman and get some of the things his master refused using the master's name. "Sorry to bother you Naaman, but just now some needy people came to visit the prophet and my master wants a few things to give them and you have the right things. My master would be very pleased, please give them to me and I will hurry back before they leave."

In a couple of hours 'innocent' Gehazi appeared before Elisha. He couldn't believe what Elisha said, "Was not my spirit with you when the man got down from his chariot to meet you?" So blinded was Gehazi at the sight of gold and other gifts that he forgot his master could know every move of him. After all he has seen Elisha revealing to the king of Israel even the most secret plans of the enemy king. Along with the gifts Gehazi also inherited Naaman's disease which he buried in the Jordan. Elisha asked, "Is this the time to take money or to accept clothes—or olive groves and vineyards, or flocks and herds, or male and female slaves?" Gehazi had very confused, messed up priorities.

By no means had Elisha said it is wrong to have money or good things; but one needs to be careful from where and how they are acquired. Many are out there today running after Naaman's of the world using the Master's name. The prophet

(and us) doesn't need the properties of Naaman to meet his (our) needs. You and I do not need to (and should not) misuse/abuse the Master's name for the glittering things of this world. Running after Naaman could make me rich, but I could also inherit his leprosy which will have no cure even if I tried a thousand Jordan's. May God give us grace to fight the logic of Gehazi whenever it raises its ugly head.

Month of MAY—Prayer Subjects

1. Personal Prayer

- Teach me to pray until You answer - Luke 18:1-8; Matthew 7:7-11; Mark 7:25-29
- Transform me - Romans 12:1-2; 2 Corinthians 3:18

2. Intercessory Prayer

Pray for:

- ◆ Mission Board
- ◆ Missionaries in Chhattisgarh, Haryana, and around the world
- ◆ Charity Board
- ◆ Support recipients that they may experience the love of God and become a blessing for others
- ◆ Levittown Community
- ◆ Persecuted Christians in countries such as Middle East, India, China, Nigeria, North Korea, Pakistan, Afghanistan

3. Pray for Healing

M. O. Mathew, Ninan Thomas, Jolly Jacob,
Ammini George, Mariamma Johnny,
Alan Mathew, Usha Danielkutty, Ana Thannickal

Bible Reading Plan for this Week 21

May 15, 2016	2 Corinthians 11-13
May 16, 2016	Exodus 29-32
May 17, 2016	2 Samuel 20-24
May 18, 2016	Psalms 60-62
May 19, 2016	Job 41-42
May 20, 2016	Jerimiah 42-46
May 21, 2016	Luke 5-6