

STUDIES IN THE LIFE OF ELISHA

INTRODUCTION TO SERIES

LIVING THE ABUNDANT LIFE

2 Kings

New Testament support verse

John 10:10

Jesus said

“I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly”

The following five concepts relate to our subject of “Abundant Life”

- 1. The ‘abundant life’ is the life which knows personal spiritual blessing, and which in turn brings blessing to others.**
- 2. The Bible everywhere teaches the possibility of believers living the abundant life here and now.**
- 3. The present tragedy is that many believers are failing to live this abundant life.**
- 4. The life and ministry of Elisha the prophet illustrate for us what it means to live the abundant life.**
- 5. Inasmuch as Elisha faced various problems and brought to bear upon them the power of God, it will be profitable for us to follow him step by step in the solution of these problems.**

New Testament Twin Truth

Mark 10:29 – 30

“Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, there is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for My sake, and the gospel’s, but he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life”

Therefore, The purpose of our studies shall be threefold....

- 1. To review the life and Ministry of Elisha the prophet with a view to apprehending the vital secret of his success.**
- 2. To seek to apply the principles of Elisha’s life and ministry to the lives of believers today.**
- 3. To bring believers – whose experience, expression, and enjoyment of the Christian life are both insufficient and inadequate for today’s needs – to a conscious appropriation of the risen life of Christ.**

[III] THE COST

Secondly we must consider, not only the call, but also the cost involved in the problem of discipleship. Elisha illustrates this cost quite well. To answer God's call may involve pain and persecution to some degree. If we live godly, we will suffer and pay a price. But these are the accomplishments of discipleship – not the essence of discipleship.

1. Cost Recognized

Elisha's request to kiss his parents good-bye was not an excuse to stay behind – It was an expression of willingness to forsake all and follow Elijah and God in order to serve as a disciple of Elijah's.

2. Cost Reviewed

Jesus said that there is no man who has left these behind for His sake that will not be compensated. Elisha left all worldly possessions behind in order to serve as a disciple. We also must review the cost.

3. Cost Represented

When Elisha slew the oxen and burned the plow – he removed any possible aspects of returning to his former life. This expression of total willingness to pay the price is represented here.

[III] THE COMMITMENT

The Call is vital – Counting the Cost is also vital – But it all hinges on The Commitment. Elisha heard the call – counted the cost and now he must make the commitment. This commitment is actually three fold!

1. To Follow Fully 19:21

Commitment must be complete... One must make the commitment to follow fully. This means making a commitment to follow not knowing where the path leads. To follow fully even into the unknown.

2. To Serve Faithfully “ministered” 19:21

Serving faithfully may at times seem to be an insignificant job. But one must remember there are no insignificant positions in service to God. As we serve Him; it may involve jobs and or positions which may not appear to be filled with glory or glamour.

3. To Work Fearlessly

Though we may be afraid; though fear may grip our hearts; though we may not understand all of it; one must trust God for everything needed to serve and we must work fearlessly.

[IV] THE COMPENSATION

Only one thing left to consider in the problem of discipleship. Elisha has heard the call; counted the cost; made the commitment; and not he can reap the benefits or experience the compensation.

The New Testament twin truth is found in Mark 10:29 – 30. Our Lord promises a blessed and glorious compensation for those who forsakes all and fully follows Him.

- 1. For Elisha there is the presence of The Master**
For us He has promised that He will never leave nor forsake us. We have the guarantee of His divine presence with us. And if God is with us what do we have to fear or fret about.
- 2. For Elisha there is the power of The Spirit 2 Kings 2**
As we travel the pathway God has designed for us in His Divine Plan for our lives; we have the promise of His presence – and also we have the Power of The Holy Spirit. With that power we can accomplish God’s Plan for our lives – but without that power we can do nothing.
- 3. For Elisha there is the performance of miracles**
Elisha did twice as many miracles as Elijah; and Jesus said that we would do even greater things that He had done on earth.
We have His Presence – Holy Spirit’s Power – where are our miracles?

It is simply called Living The Abundant Life!

STUDIES IN THE LIFE OF ELISHA # 2 THE ABUNDANT LIFE

COMMITMENT PASSAGE 2 KINGS 2:1-14

Review of # 1 Called Prophet

[I] PREPARATION IN COMMITMENT 2 Kings 2:1-3

Preparation is essential in our commitment process...

- 1. Apparent Desire of Elijah 2:2**
The request or desire of Elijah is that they separate.
The response or determination of Elisha is one of sincerity.
We too must come to the place of sincerity in commitment.
- 2. Abundant Evidence of Difficulty Ahead**
These are places of past abundant blessings and victories.
These are places of present burdens and evil.
The First Miracle of Elisha is in connection to the waters of Jordan.
The Second is in connection to the polluted waters of Jericho.
Faith is the essence of both miracles.
- 3. Adverse Criticism from God's People 2:3 & 5**
Comes from those at Bethel as well as Jericho. { Bethel – House of Bread }
Criticism brings discouragement and dissatisfaction!
- 4. Acclaimed Determination of Elisha**
The Place is Jordan / Crossing over place to promised land.
The People / The two Prophets { Elijah and Elisha }
The Proposal / To receive a double portion..... Abundant Life!
The Power to deliver is in God's hand.....

[II] PROOF OF COMMITMENT 2:2, 4, 6.

There is a process involved in living out an abundant life. Its proof of commitment in our life style.

- 1. Test of Loyalty**
There will be tests in regards to our loyalty / just as Elijah puts Elisha to the test in his loyalty. These tests will prove to us our need in this area. These tests will come in many forms.....
- 2. Test of Labor**

Labor is closely connected to commitment through loyalty. Our labor is confirmation of our loyalty in our commitment. Actions speak louder than words!

3. Test of Loneliness

When someone involves themselves in loyalty and labor for the Master; there is the possibility of loneliness. We may find ourselves standing alone if we make a firm commitment and stay loyal by our labor.

4. Test of Love

It all comes down to this test of “love” The final aspect of proof of commitment rests in the object of our love. Jesus said “If you love me keep my commandments” This takes commitment and requires the proof of that commitment.

[III] PERFORMANCE IN COMMITMENT 2:7-11

Request was for a double portion. This double portion request was granted.

It was Received from the ascended master { Elijah }

It was Related to the Spirit. And Required for service!

1. The Path of Persistence 2:2,4,6.

Elisha expressed his persistence in these verses, which indicates his performance in commitment. We too must be persistent in our commitment to Christ.

2. The Path of Progress

Commitment to Christ is connected to the progress in our spiritual life style. There is a tremendous need for spiritual growth among the congregations of our churches.

3. The Path of Power

Elisha could not make it on his own power. He had to have the power of God working in his life. It is the same with us; we cannot make it alone..... We must have God’s power and we also need each other.

4. The Path of Priority

These first three depend on what we make our priority. Elisha seems to make his performance in commitment his first priority. As God’s people we must decide what our priorities will be!

[IV] PERSUASION OF COMMITMENT 2:12-14

The servant's Translation is seen here.

- 1. Declared**
- 2. Denied**
- 3. Defended**

The Student's Expedition can be seen.

- 1. Unsubmissive**
- 2. Unspiritual**
- 3. Unbelieving**

The Prophet's rebuke is found here

- 1. Their folly**
- 2. Their failure**

Elisha went and came the same pathway.....

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. He went to get | He returned to give |
| 2. He went to see | He returned to show |
| 3. He went to hear | He returned to heal |
| 4. He went to learn | He returned to lead |

It all has to do with Living The Abundant Life!

STUDIES IN THE LIFE OF ELISHA # 3 THE ABUNDANT LIFE

CORRECTION PROCESS

2Kings 2:19 – 25

Dealing with bitterness and ridicule..... ‘naught’ means to spoil

[I] THE SITUATION 2:19-20

Different situations demand different approaches for solution...

- 1. The Report Specific**
 - A. Acknowledgment of all the facts**
 - Honesty concerning the complete situation**
 - Deception leads to distrust**
 - [1] Advantageous prospect Could be pleasant place**
 - However there is a problem of bitterness in the water**
 - [2] Adverse problem it is a perilous place**
 - Water is essential to life – There must be a correction of this situation.**
 - B. Admission of personal inability**
 - Inadequate resources for correcting the situation**
 - C. An Appeal for help**
 - Elisha faces a situation that must be resolved**
- 2. The Requirement Simple**
 - A. A new approach Not a.....**
 - [1] Psychological Education**
 - [2] Physical Environment**
 - [3] Logical Economical**
 - Needs a Spiritual approach**
 - B. A new antidote**
 - “salt” Salt is a preservative**

[II] SOLUTION 2:20-22

A simple solution for the situation!!

- 1. The Remedy Perfect and Permanent**
 - A. Agreement with the men Enlisted Others**
 - Enlisting assistance from others is necessary**
 - B. Applying of the salt Expression of Faith**
 - The expression of faith is the key to success**
 - C. Association to God’s Word Experienced Result**

This is due to following a certain process that works

2. The Reality

Sometimes its up to us to take action in order to bring about a correction for the situation. Failure to follow a working process leads to failure in finding the solution for the situation.

[III] SCOFFING

2:23

Opposition and even persecution is a reality. It's how we handle it that makes the difference.

1. Ridiculed

A. The Period Indicated

Generally A politically divided kingdom...

 A kingdom divided against itself cannot stand

Specifically A spiritually degenerate kingdom

 Morally corrupt. It is a very dark period of time!

Application Consider our country today in these areas!

B. The Place Identified

This takes place just outside Bethel

Bethel means 'house of bread'

Many events are connected to Bethel!

C. The Persons Involved

"children" This term is also used for youth and sometimes for young adults. These are probably not small children.....

 Possibly they are the offspring of ungodly parents.

They are obviously rebellious youth.

D. The Purpose Inferred

Evidently their purpose in ridicule is to insult Elisha.

Possibly to undermine his position as prophet.

Certainly it involves mocking Elisha.

The phrase "go up" points to the translation of Elijah.

Probably they are mocking God as well as Elisha.

2. Reaction

2:24

The reaction of Elisha is important

A. Perception

Elisha has a perception of these youth and their intent.

Their animosity Their resistance launched toward Elisha is actually against God!

B. Pronouncement

Elisha's announcement of "cursed" is actually a statement of the sentence of judgment against these youth.

"in the name of the Lord" indicates this is a sentence of God's judgment against them.

[IV] SIGNIFICANCE

What is the significance of these two accounts?

1. **Regret** **Sadness over a certain set of circumstances**
 - A. **Choices have consequences**
These youth made a choice and received the consequences
 - B. **Attitudes result in actions**
Their attitude toward Elisha and also toward God brought about their actions
 - C. **Actions bring Judgment**
Their actions resulted in the announcement of judgment
The bears were simply the instruments of justice.
This justice was brought by God and not Elisha.
2. **Retribution**
 - A. **A warning**
God's wrath is coming. Judgment day will come.
 - B. **A necessity**
Justice demands a day of judgment.
 - C. **A certainty**
Judgment is certain.. A day of reckoning,

Sometimes we must turn it all over to God for the correction of a situation.

And we must understand that His Judgment is Just!

It is "Living the Abundant Life"

STUDIES IN THE LIFE OF ELISHA # 4 THE ABUNDANT LIFE

CONQUEST OF PROBLEMS

2 Kings 3:1 – 27

[I] DISASTER

3:1 9

Facing a great disaster..... What led to this disaster?

- 1. An Unlawful Ambition**
Rebellion caused Jehoram to wage war -/- He wanted to keep the tributes of sheep and cattle... **Selfish Gain!**
- 2. An Unholy Alliance 3:9 Unequally yoked!**
Jehoshaphat represents the spiritual man here.
Jehoram represents the carnal man.
King of Edom represents the natural man.
A combination of these three constitutes an unholy alliance.
- 3. An Unforeseen Adversity 3:8**
The trip through the wilderness. An unholy alliance fostered by an unlawful ambition can only carry them to an unforeseen adversity.
This is still true today in the church of today!

[II] DESPERATION

3:9-10

Disaster should always lead us to a state of desperation.....

- 1. The Treaty 3:7-8**
Compromise for personal gain accounts for this treaty. What compromises have been made in today's church? Compromises that have become treaties with _____?
- 2. The Thirst 3:9**
Such a treaty as this could only lead to serious problems.
Here the problem is thirst which affects the animals as well as the people. Without water they will all perish!
- 3. The Terror 3:9-10**
All of this would probably have developed.....
 - A. Fear in the hearts of the people**
Fear can become destructive also.
 - B. Frustration looms head**
Probably the fear would have brought frustration to the people.
 - C. Failure can only be the end result of this situation!**

Sometimes we must come to the place of desperation to find help!

[III] DIRECTION 3:16

We need direction for our lives just as these people....

- 1. Required**
Facing death meant their need for divine direction
- 2. Requested**
Jehoram says “no way out” 3:10
King of Edom had nothing to say.
Carnal man sees no way out.
Natural man simply says nothing.
Jehoshaphat { Spiritual man } requested help!
Only a spiritual man knows the value of divine assistance.
- 3. Received**
Help comes! And it comes from Elisha... The prophet of God with the double portion!
Elisha is introduced and identified as the servant of Elijah 3:11
Not as a miracle worker but as a servant...
- 4. Relayed**
Direction is relayed under the influence of music 3:15
Music is connected to a calming effect in many places!
- 5. Right to the point**
Direction from God gets right to the point...
 - A. The Positive Program 3:16**
This involved – Faith – Obedience – and Effort!
 - B. The Promised Plentitude 3:17**
God never promise an inadequate supply!
His supply is always adequate to meet the need.....
 - C. The Proper Perspective 3:18**
A proper perspective is essential at times such as these.
Obedience and Trusting God is a necessary element.
 - D. The Preventative Penalty 3:19**
Total obedience is required.
God’s direction comes and brings assurance of victory..

Consider the steps.....

Recognized the need.

Requested the assistance.

Received the help needed.

[IV] DELIVERANCE 3:20 – 27

Disaster led to desperation..... Desperation brought direction.....

Direction brings about deliverance.... Same process today!

1. A Divine Supply 3:17

This will only be accomplished by the Lord Himself!

Only God can give divine supplies...

A. It was a Miraculous Supply

God Promised

His promises are sure

God Planned

His plans are sacred

God Provided

His provisions are sufficient

B. It was a Measureless Supply

God cannot be limited and His supply cannot be measured!

It was a miraculous and measureless supply from God!

2. A Direct Supply Complete Victory.....

A. It was certain in coming.

God had promised victory and there was nothing that could stop it.

B. It was sufficient in supply.

God's supply is always adequate. Also perfect...

3. A Decisive Success 3:21-27

A. Rarity 3:21-23

This is a rare setting and set of circumstances.

B. Reasoning 3:23

Reasoning brings problems. The reasoning of the enemy can only bring disaster to them.

C. Result 3:24-27

Complete Victory!

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STUDIES IN THE LIFE OF ELISHA # 5 THE ABUNDANT LIFE

CHAMBER OF PROVISION

2 Kings 4:1-17

An alliance and association with carnal and natural people sooner or later leads to disaster.... 2 Kings 3

God will assist needy groups – but also an individual person

[I] THE PROBLEM

AN EMERGENCY

4:1

- 1. The Problem or Emergency Analyzed**
 - A. The problem in the family**

Death has struck the family... Bringing sorrow and suffering.
Despair has resulted from the death of father.
 - B. The problem in finances**

Debt has mounted to an impossibility to overcome.
Desperation has hit due to the debtors coming to take the sons.
 - C. The problem with the future**

There has been a past devotion
Now they face present doubts
And look to future dealings as certain defeat...
- 2. The Problem or Emergency Announced**
 - A. Announced Fervently ‘cried out’**

The fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.....
 - B. Announced Frankly**

Notice her complete honesty in sharing with Elisha
 - C. Announced Fully**

She held back nothing... She shared it all...!!
- 3. The Problem or Emergency Applied**

Elisha took her problem and made an application of hope for her life.
We too must apply our problems and emergencies in a way that will provide hope and assistance for our lives..

[II] THE POTENTIAL

AN EXAMINATION

4:2-5

- 1. An Evaluation of the Potential**
 - A. The appeal of the prophet**

“What do you want”?
 - B. The answer of the woman**

Nothing but a pot of oil
She faces the facts.....
- Two questions**
“What do you have”?
Inadequate Resource!

Her critical – constant – and collective need has been met.

Yet it appears that she had a compelling desire for a child.. And this desire remains un fulfilled. God will not only meet our needs; but He can also give us the desires of our heart!

1. Her Witness

A. Spiritually minded.

“Let the mind of Christ be in You’ There is a tremendous need for spiritually minded people. “set your affections on things above’

B. Practically minded.

It has been said some become so spiritually minded that they are of no earthly benefit. There must be a balance. She faces facts and reality. There is right and also reality!

C. Lowly minded.

She does not consider herself to be more that she actually is. Humility is becoming!

2. Her Weakness

She simply thinks it too good to be true. Who has never had a doubt when it came to God’s promises etc.....

3. The Work of God in her life

A. Custom 4:8

This was a custom of hospitality. Expecting nothing in return.

B. Courtesy 4:9-10

It was simply the courteous thing to do for someone.

C. Consideration 4:11-13

Elisha shows consideration to her for her hospitality toward him.

D. Conception 4:14-17

[1] Condition 4:14

[2] Calling 4:15

[3] Cheer 4:16

[4] Completion 4:17

And this is “Living the Abundant Life”

STUDIES IN THE LIFE OF ELISHA #6 THE ABUNDANT LIFE

CHILD PRESERVATION

2 Kings 4:18-37

Life is filled with troubles – trials – and testing. These all come our way.

[I] FACING THE TRIAL OR TESTING

4:18-20

Her son was divinely given but now he is suddenly smitten.

1. The Season

It is the time of harvest 4:18

He is a young child. Old enough to go to field. Possibly 5 to 6.

2. The Suddenness

Trials or testing can come suddenly; without warning.

A. Uncertainty concerning health and or life

B. Unknown conditions surround all of us

C. Uncontrollable circumstances have to be dealt with

One can never be prepared for trials or testing that come.

3. The Severity

Trials or test can come in various forms and levels.

A. Disease hits when unexpected. These can be devastating.

B. Death is the result here; not only unexpected but unavoidable.

C. Distress follows in the life of this woman. Death brings severe distress; sorrow and emotional pain.

D. Decision now comes into the picture. Her decision to enlist help from the prophet Elisha.

4. The Surprise

Unprepared and unaware that she would ever face such a time of trial or test; this entire event is simply unbelievable.

[II] FAITH DURING A TRIAL OR TESTING

4:21-22

Faith and trust in God is easier in times of prosperity and peaceful living. Putting it into practice during times of turmoil and trials is different.

1. Stability Concern from compassion

Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God

Being established in the faith can be a great asset at these times

2. Spirituality

Stability depends on our spiritual level. Our spiritual level has to do with our relationship with God; BUT also with our fellowship with God and God's people.

3. Steadfastness Consider
 - A. She has the death of her child to deal with
 - B. Also the distance to Elisha
Estimated to be about 25 miles
 - C. And the duties of the servants
 - D. Then probably the worst is the disregard of her husband
4. Submissiveness
In all of this we note
 - A. Her respect for Elisha
 - B. Her reaction to Elisha Verse 30
 - C. Her reassurance from Elisha

[III] FOLLY IN DEALING WITH TRIALS OR TEST

1. Casual Attitude
Her husband seems to be too busy to stop – he sends a servant.
2. Cynical Attitude
To him religion was not a priority. Only connected to special days.
3. Carnal Attitude At best this covers his actions
Ignorant or Apathy. Ignorant is a state of not knowing.
Apathy is a state of not caring that one doesn't know.
4. Calloused Attitude
To be cold hearted is terrible. So is being calloused hearted

In the midst of her crisis, we see her commitment.

As she is confronted with trials; see her continuation.

In the midst of confusion; see her control.

NOTICE THE POWERLESS SERVANT OF ELISHA.

1. Lack of pity 4:27
2. Lack of prayer 4:31
3. Lack of preparation 4:31
4. Lack of personal touch 4:31

Failure follows close to folly in how we face or deal with trials or tests.

[IV] FULLFILLMENT IN A TRIAL OR TEST

1. **Perspective**
How we look at and how we approach or deal with the trial or test.
 - A. **Understanding the situation is essential in handling a trial**
Lack of understanding leads to confusion.
 - B. **Undertaking of a solution for the situation naturally comes next.**
But we must understand it in order to undertake the proper approach.
 - C. **Unsuccessful in solving the situation comes many times due to the lack of understanding.**
 - D. **Finally after exhausting our resources; we eventually turn to God for assistance. Notice she goes immediately to Elisha!**
2. **Prayer**
Prayer is the key.
 - A. **First there is Isolation**
Elisha isolates himself with the child. Personal touch.
 - B. **Intercession; though not stated it is indicated.**
Intercession is essential to successful handling of trials.
 - C. **Also we can see Identification**
Elisha uses the personal touch approach and identifies with the child.
 - D. **Insistence**
Elisha keeps on keeping on in this case. One cannot give up.
3. **Peace**
O What sweet peace must have filled her heart with the reviving of her son. What peace comes from victory in Jesus over trials!
 - A. **Complete Peace**
 - B. **Controlling Peace**
 - C. **Comforting Peace**
4. **Praise**
How could she help but praise God for this victory.

It is simply "Living the Abundant Life"

STUDIES IN THE LIFE OF ELISHA # 7 THE ABUNDANT LIFE

CHANGED POISON

2 Kings 4:38-44

“dearth” connected with famine – means “to be hungry”

[I] THE PROBLEM Condition in the Country 4:38

1. Its Cause

- A. Drought** Sometimes it’s simply due to a drought due to a lack of rain etc.
- B. Disobedience to God** Obedience is better than sacrifice!
Disobedience to God leads to punishment from God.
- C. Displeasure of God** Disobedience leads to displeasure
All of this ends up with “dearth”

2. Its Consequence

Here it’s a natural famine – There is also spiritual famines.
Spiritual famine affects the students – sons of prophets.

3. Its Corrective 2 Chronicles 6:26 – 27

Prayer to God is the only remedy. The same is true today.
2 Chronicles 7:13-14

[II] THE POISON Crisis in the Casting 4:39-40

Notice the person involved and also....

1. The Instruction 38b

Instructions from Elisha to prepare a meal. Logical

2. The Independence 39

There is no indication that this person was authorized nor approved to perform this act of gathering for the meal.
Possibly his action was not intentional.

3. The Ignorance

“they knew not” Sadly – often that which ultimately poisons the food of believers outwardly resembles that which is true, good, and wholesome.

4. The Intention 40

Obviously the intention is simply ‘to feed the people’
The students were ready for food – intention was to feed everyone.

5. The Intuition

Only by partaking could they determine there was poison in the pot.
Only by involvement can we distinguish what is correct.

6. **The Impurity**
 Determination of poison for these students... For us we must realize.
 - A. The impurity of modern education
 - B. The impurity of modern ethics
 - C. The impurity of religious theory
 - D. The impurity of religious theology
7. **The Inability**
 "They could not eat" There are some things that must be avoided!

[III]THE PROTECTION Cure in the Cauldron 4:41

1. **Admission and Confession**
 Admission and confession of true facts. There must be a time of facing the actual facts of conditions.
2. **Action and Cooperation**
 Action must be taken to correct the situation. Action must be taken to protect the people. {The Meal Offering}
 Cooperation is essential for success.
 There is such a lack of cooperation within the church today.
3. **Appropriation and Consumption**
 There is no study that cannot prove to be helpful so long as it is Bible Based and Scripturally Sound. However.....

The study of science when pursued in the spirit of rationalism can prove poisonous and destructive.

The study of theology, infused with the spirit of rationalism will prove to be lethal to true faith.

Modern man is being fed a mixture of truth and error. The only remedy is Christ Centered Biblical application.

Satan, ever watchful to meet the soul in its hour of weakness, is ready with the tempting gourd of the wild vine, abundant, rich in color, full of luscious wealth; but poisonous to the spiritual element.

[IV] THE PROVIDING Celebration in the Circumstances 4:42-44

2 Kings 4:42-44 can be approached from the standpoint of receiving enlightenment and encouragement.

1. The Donation 4:42

Five valuable facts from this incident.

- A. The faithfulness of this anonymous donor**
He obviously remembers his responsibility
- B. The courage of this donor**
This is given during the days of apostasy – unpopular...
- C. The sacrifice made by this donor**
Most likely this is the first harvest since the drought
His gift is a sign of his willingness to give sacrificially
- D. The discernment on the part of this donor**
He recognizes Elisha as God’s prophet.
- E. The timing of this donation by the donor**
Given at the exact time of dire need

2. The Direction 4:42

- A. This direction was given by Elisha**
God’s representative gives the directions
- B. This direction was challenged**
Possibly due to fear on the part of the challenger
Or could be due to frustration – or even feelings.
- C. This direction was repeated**
Directions from God through true servants does not change
Trust for supernatural and superabundance

3. The Distribution 4:44

- A. He served the people – same as service to God**
- B. He supplied their need.....**
- C. He satisfied their need.....**
- D. He surpassed their need.....**

This is “Living the Abundant Life”

STUDIES IN THE LIFE OF ELISHA #8 THE ABUNDANT LIFE

CAPTAIN OF PURIFICATION

2 Kings 5:1 – 19

In order to better understand purification; and the person or captain of purification; let's look at the familiar story of the cleansing of Naaman.

Naaman was brought from the place of contamination to the place of cleansing. One of several amazing conversion experiences.

[I] VICTIM'S SITUATION

5:1

1. Leader

From verse 1 we learn that Naaman was not only a leader; but he was great in the sight of his master. He was also an honorable man due to God delivering Syria to the Jews. And then he was also a mighty man of valor.

2. Leper

However Naaman had a serious problem in that he had a defiling disease. He was a leper. Leprosy is a devastating disease. Those with leprosy were labeled as unclean and cast out of the presence of normal people.

3. Lethal

Leprosy usually meant "no hope" They became beggars for crumbs and were at the mercy of others. Leprosy meant death in most cases; and it was a horrible process of pain and agony.

[II] VARIOUS STEPS

There are several steps involved here in the cleansing of Naaman.

1. Connected Links

5:2-19

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------|
| A. The little Jewish maid | 5:2-3 |
| B. The unnamed individual | 5:4 |
| C. The king of Syria | 5:5 |
| D. The king of Israel | 5:7 |
| E. Elisha | 5:8 |
| F. Elisha's messenger | 5:10 |
| G. Naaman's servants | 5:13 |

Before Naaman's cleansing there were seven contacts – some direct contact – some indirect; but all seven had a part in his recovery.

Each one was used in the process. We should never forget that God stillworks many times in this same manner.

2. **The Contribution of these Links**
 Look at 5:3 5:4 5:5 5:7 5:8 5:10 5:13
 Each of the persons or links contributed to the cleansing of Naaman.
3. **The Characteristics of each Link**
 - A. **Faithfulness in speaking**
 The maid waited for the opportunity and spoke out.
 - B. **Forthrightness in speaking**
 Notice the response of the king of Israel
 - C. **Fearlessness in speaking**
 Naaman's servants speak without fear.....

[III] VITAL SECRET

Individuals are important; But there is not only the man; there is also the message. Look at Elisha's message to Naaman.

1. **The Real Problem**
 Elisha dealt unyieldingly with the real problem ... leprosy!
 Leprosy is a type for sin.....
2. **The Remedy for the Problem**
 Elisha unequivocally declared the only remedy for Naaman's problem.
 It appears that Naaman thought the solution to his situation was too simple or something! The remedy demanded obedience and acceptance of the process.
 - A. **Elisha's message was definite**
 No options were offered.
 There is only one remedy for sin.
 - B. **Elisha's message was daring**
 Naaman may be coming to Elisha as a Captain who just happened to be a leper.
 But Elisha deals with him as a leper who just happened to be a Captain.
 - C. **Elisha's message was drastic**
 Go wash seven times in Jordan! Naaman probably despised that river Jordan. This would be a thorough job of washing since seven is the number for completion or perfection.
 This cleansing would be perfect purification!
3. **Reliance on the Remedy for the Real Problem**
 - A. **Demands the absolute confidence of Naaman.**
 ➤ Repentance is Required

➤ Faith is the key

[IV] VICTORIOUS SEQUEL

5:15-19

Three aspects to this conclusion of the cleansing....

1. Acknowledgment of Jehovah 5:15

Naaman will have to acknowledge Jeshovah as the true God.

This involves faith and a complete change of heart.

2. Allegiance to Jehovah 5:17

Naaman was to return to his own country. How will he express his cleansing? In verse 17 he avows his allegiance to Jehovah.

A cleansing or purifying process will bring about an allegiance to God and the things of God; And to the people of God!

3. Abandonment of any and all other gods

Verse 18 is puzzling!!! Explanation is difficult.

However don't lose sight of the main focus....

THE CLEANSING OF NAAMAN!

It is "Living the Abundant Life"

STUDIES IN THE LIFE OF ELISHA # 9 THE ABUNDANT LIFE

COVETING PRINCIPLE

2 Kings 5:20 – 6:7

We live in a materialistic – minded society. Gehazi gives us an example of just such a person. His coveting provides us with a great lesson.....

[I] THE ENTICEMENT OF A SERVANT 5:20-21

He is enticed in spite of the miracles he witnessed; in spite of his time of fellowship with Elisha; and in spite of his personal knowledge.

1. His Approach

He probably found it hard to believe that Elisha had refused any compensation from Naaman. He made a decision.....

2. His Appeal

He takes matters into his own hands; he will go after him and ask for contributions.

3. His Accumulation

He gains in material possessions; but he will never profit from ill gotten gain. He could not resist the temptation! Wealth that was abundant was available and he goes for it...

[II] ENSNAREMENT OF A SERVANT 5:22-24

There is a step by step procedure in the ensnaring of Gehazi. Notice.....

1. His misstatement of the condition

All is not well; He is now a victim of covetousness. A large part of the reason for the lack of peace in so many lives today is the frantic drive and feverish desire for things.

2. His misrepresentation of his master

Elisha's refusal confirms that God's grace is extended freely to Naaman. Gehazi's actions indicate that it can be purchased.

Gehazi misrepresented his master's

A. Mind

B. Motive

C. Message

3. His misleading of Naaman

Gehazi deliberately deceived Naaman. Gehazi played Naaman into his con; And Naaman ends up actually giving more than he was asked.

[III] THE EXPOSING OF A SERVANT 5:25-27

Gehazi relieves Naaman's servants of their load immediately upon arrival; he stored his loot carefully in the house; He thinks he has gotten away with his greed and no one will ever be the wiser.

"be sure your sins find you out" It is now time for his duties to his master. How surprised he must have been by the question and statement of Elisha.

What takes place here is a judgment scene. Reminds us of Achan! Reminds us of Judas! Reminds us of many modern day religious leaders!

1. There is an Examination

Elisha's question must have sounded like a loud and long clap of thunder. Gehazi must have thought "What does he know?" and "How could he know?" So quickly he lies again to cover up his lies to Naaman..... Once he starts – can't stop!

2. Here is Exposure

In one brief sentence Gehazi and his folly are exposed. Gehazi seems to forget that Elisha's is a called representative of the Most High and Holy God. People need to understand they are not fooling as many people as they think; especially the called of God. Gehazi believed that he could deceive Elisha just as easily as he did Naaman.

3. There is Evaluation here 5:26

The next question cuts to the core. Elisha had not finished with Gehazi. Gehazi had failed miserably in understanding the value of a good testimony; and he has allowed his personal desire for things to gain priority in his life. He has become a victim of selfish greed.

4. The Expulsion of Gehazi

Elisha points out the seriousness of Gehazi's failure or sinfulness and then announces a verdict upon the guilty servant. Interesting to note that his punishment is exactly Naaman's problem that brought him to Elisha.

Leprosy marked him out as having transgressed. He is a marked man. He is also labeled as one in whom self was first and foremost.

He is marked as one self – centered and self – seeking.

He is sentenced as a warning to others.

Those who covet the world's treasure often have to share the world's filth.

Here is the opposite in the life of servants.

1. **The Purpose of the Project** 6:1-3
 - A. **What this project Indicated**
There was decision here. The students made a decision.
Good or Bad there is determination on their part
 - B. **What this project Involved**
It involved Expansion and Extension
It involved Effort and Exertion
 - **United effort**
 - **Individual effort**It involved Equipment and Efficiency
They desired the presence of Elisha as they undertook this project
2. **The Perception of the Predicament**
The worker is more important than the work!!
 - A. **His labor** 6:3 and 6:5
He is accepting responsibility and being involved
 - B. **His loss**
The lost ax head did not destroy his desire to work...
 - C. **His lament**
He could not continue to work and the ax was borrowed
3. **The Process of Proceeding**
He went directly to the Master with his problem
 - A. **Admission and Acknowledgment**
He did not try cover up
 - B. **Addition and Application**
The recovery process – We too have a recovery process
 - C. **Action and Appropriation** 6:7
There is a work to be done
There is building to take place
There is service to be rendered

It is “Living the Abundant Life”

STUDIES IN THE LIFE OF ELISHA # 10 THE ABUNDANT LIFE

Conspiracies Perceived

2 Kings 6:8 – 23

The problem of fear and insecurity is a horrible reality in our society.

{I} FEAR DEFINED

Fear brings anxiety, stress, and frustration. Fear has to do with.....

1. Circumstances

Difficult circumstances could be defined as fear at times.

Everyone faces some difficult circumstances in life.

It is how we respond to these circumstances that makes the difference.

2. Consciousness

Direct consciousness of conditions which are unfavorable can be defined as fear. Some forms of fear has to do with our conscience.

Some is due to our conscious understanding of conditions that we face during our life time.

3. Conviction

Divine conviction by the Holy Spirit can fit into the definition of fear. Guilt over failure as well as sin can be associated with the defining of fear.

There are various aspects in life which are associated with the definition of fear. Such as.....

- **Danger** **Danger can bring about fear**
Danger whether real or imaginary
- **Darkness** **Many are afraid in darkness**
Darkness brings elements of anxiety
- **Death** **Fear of the unknown**
There are so many things about death which are mysterious
- **Deception** **Realizing this can bring about fear**
Facing the reality of being deceived
- **Defeat** **No one seeks defeat**
Everyone desires to be successful
- **Dedication** **The fear of commitment**
There is something about commitment that scares many

{II} FEAR DEVELOPED

6:8-14

Trace the events here that led to the development of fear...

1. **Massive Conflict** 6:8
 God's people were in danger of being overrun and overcome.
 There must be a constant and continual realization that God's people are involved in massive and fierce conflict.
2. **Mysterious Communication**
 The purpose was to plan a surprise attack against Israel.
 - A. Intimidation is part of the plan
 - B. Infiltration is another part of the plan
 - C. Insinuation is also part of the plan
3. **Major Confusion**
 They thought they had Israel trapped – how confusing they must have been when they realized that Israel knew their plans.
4. **Moving Command**
 It is none of us!!!! Well then find out who it is..... It is Elisha!
 Well then go find him.

{III} FEAR DISPLAYED

During the evening soldiers surround the town. Morning reveals the crisis of a conflict. Fear develops in the servant of Elisha...Reactions to fear....

1. **Pause**
 Some folks simply pause in their work for God due to fear.
2. **Pretend**
 Possibly some try to pretend that there is no danger and thus dispel their fear.
3. **Perplexity**
 Still some may become perplexed and unable to grasp the seriousness of such a situation.
4. **Panic**
 For the servant of Elisha, panic is obviously his reaction. He becomes aware of the situation and fear grips his heart.

We may be sure that the devil and his associates are out to get believers who live spiritually healthy lives. It is their goal to silence any valuable servant. It is their design to destroy a triumphant testimony for God.

{IV} FEAR DISPELLED

Elisha surprises his servant with his calmness over the situation.

1. Acknowledgment

There is no need to be afraid. Elisha acknowledged the presence and power of God. We don't have to live in fear.

This is not a session of counseling but a serious command.

2. Assurance

There are more for us than against us. If God be for us; who can be against us? The believer's confidence is found in God!

Problems come to all of God's people.

Troubles come our way. Trials are a part of life.

Temptations are realities. Even testing comes.

But in everything we can find assurance of His presence and power.

3. Appeal

Elisha knows what to do.... PRAY..... The fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. Elisha makes his appeal to God.

What a thrill when the servant had his eyes opened.

Possibly we need to make great appeals for God to move in our lives today.

4. Answer

God gave a

A. Definite answer

No question about this being God

B. Direct answer

The answer applied directly to the appeal

C. Divine answer

This could only be God

It is "Living the Abundant Life"

Retribution is inevitable. Choices have consequences...

God judges sinfulness... No one can escape.....

- 1. Elisha forecast this retribution**
We have God's promise of forgiveness AND
We also have His promise of judgment
God has given us His Word for our guide on how to avoid His time of retribution...
- 2. God fulfilled this retribution**
His judgments are sure Just Righteous
Man kind may avoid retribution for a period of time
But our sins will surface.....
- 3. God's retribution is final**
The judgment of God is final....
There is only one remedy that guarantees freedom from His judgment.

Conviction by the Holy Spirit

Confession from the sinner

Conversion through Christ

Commitment to Christ

It is simply "Living the Abundant Life"

STUDIES IN THE LIFE OF ELISHA # 12 THE ABUNDANT LIFE

CUTTHROAT PERSONALITY

2 Kings 8:1 – 15

Some people will resort to any tactic in any situation for personal gain!

{I} THE REVELATION FROM THE LORD 8:1 Revealed to her....

God reveals Himself and His will to individuals personally..

1. Personally

A. God expresses His CARE for this lady.

God cares about the things going on in her life.

B. God also uses Chastisement personally

God's chastisement is an expression of His LOVE

C. Comfort

God comforts his faithful followers

2. Particularly

A. God guides generally by His Word

B. He guides specifically by His Spirit

C. Intermediately by other believers

D. Providentially through circumstances

For this lady it includes

Immediate departure from her country

Sphere of responsibility

Choice she must make

The reason for the emergency

The time involved

Complete Revelation!!!!

3. Partially

Many times God's reveling is partial and we simply must trust Him.

{II} THE RESPONSE OF THE LADY

8:2

1. Implicitly

No Argument

No Agitation

Simply Calm acceptance

Not always easy to do!

2. Immediately

No hesitation

No excuses for lingering

3. Inclusively

There are times when one must be inclusive in obedience

Faith without works is dead.....

A. Separation

This involved separation from her own country

B. Sacrifice

There are times when we must make some sacrifice

C. Service

We are saved for service!

4. Independently

She asked no one – she relied on no other opinions

She acted in complete obedience to God.... Without Question.

{III} THE RESTORATION OF THE LAND 8:3 – 6

She returns to find her possessions and properties are lost.... The Land has been restored and now she will be rewarded.....

1. Arranged Wonderfully

Arrangements are made according to

A. Time

B. Persons

C. Mood

The time had come – seven years had passed.

The persons involved are the woman and her family

The mood of the king comes into perspective also

God sets the arrangements in motion and He has control!

2. Apportioned Directly

Her reward is in accordance to her faith

Yet she had to wait for seven years...

Her Response was prompt – now she has been patient.

She has endured painful experiences – and now she politely makes her appeal to the king; and is rewarded.

3. Awarded Openly

A. Planned

B. Protected

C. Provided

➤ Supernatural

➤ Suitable

➤ Sufficient

Some would say this was a coincidence in her coming at the exact same time as Elisha's servant is sharing with the king concerning Elisha...

{IV} THE RESORTING OF A LEADER 8:7 – 15

Hazael's depravity come forth here...

1. Disguised

Depravity may be disguised in different forms.....

A. Aspects of his disguise

He actually expressed interest in things going on

He actively experienced involvement in these things

B. Analysis

As we evaluate this situation we become aware that

Hazael's reputation appears to be spotless

But he has made a resolution to become king

And he is willing to start a revolution in order to get what he wants

C. Application

In an application for us today; It means that the ends do not justify the means...

2. Declared

In considering the declaration of his depravity – notice

A. The manner in which the declaration is made

Made under a disguise of being spiritual

B. The manner in which the declaration is received 8:13

3. Demonstrated

A. The objective he had in mind

His aim and ambition was to be king – no matter what it cost.

B. Opportunity

He seized the opportunity – no matter what the cost.

C. Outcome of his depravity

God used Hazael to inflict judgment upon Israel for their idolatry.

**God can use whatever means He may choose in bring about blessings;
Or in order to chastise His Children – or punish through His judgment!**

It is “Living the Abundant Life”

STUDIES IN THE LIFE OF ELISHA # 13 THE ABUNDANT LIFE

CORONATION OF A PROPHET 2 Kings 9:1 – 13

{I} THE APPOINTMENT OF JEHU 9:1 – 3

Four aspects concerning God's Operation in the Appointment of Jehu

1. God's Patience

His patience with Israel is seen in His allowing another leader to endeavor bringing them back to Himself.

2. God's Plan

**1 Kings 19:16 This plan was predicted
Here in 2 Kings it is fulfilled...**

3. God's Program

God uses People in His Work

4. God's Purpose

Simply to bring His people back to faith

God always has a messenger available to share His Plans – Program and His Purpose.

{II} THE ANOINTING OF JEHU 9:4 – 10

God's appointment is accompanied by His anointing.....

1. Its Source 9:6

The anointing came from God – Not Elisha nor Elisha's servant.

The Moment of the anointing was

A. Postponed

B. Providential

C. Performed

2. Its Sphere 9:7

It is for a specific task and work

The Messenger in the anointing carries with it

A. A reason for the anointing

To express the importance of God's anointing

B. The requirements for anointing

➤ Placement into service

➤ Priority of service

➤ Preparation for service

➤ Power of service

C. Response of the messenger

3. Its Symbolism

Oil The Holy Spirit

The ritual pointed to the reality

The sign pointed to the substance

A. This all exalted the Almighty

God must be exalted We must decrease -/- He must increase

B. This also explained the anointing

Proclaimed the presence of God in everything accomplished

C. Then it also exhorted to action

An anointing by the Lord indicates an exhortation to serve.

4. Its Significance

A manifestation of God in the lives of His appointed and anointed servants.

{III} THE ACTIVITY OF JEHU 9:11 – 10:28

1. The Extermination of Ahab's House

A. The Assassination of Ahaziah 9:27 – 30

➤ **His fate 9:27**

➤ **His Fatality 9:28**

➤ **His fame 9:29**

B. The Assassination of Jezebel

➤ **Her finish 9:30 – 33**

Blatant Snubbing v 30

Bold Stance v 31-32

Bloody Solution v 33

➤ **Her fate v 34 – 37**

No findings anywhere v 34 – 36a

No fame v 36b – 37

C. The Assassination of Ahab's descendants 10:1-17

➤ **The dare 10:1-3**

➤ **The decapitation 10:4-8**

➤ **The destruction 10:9-17**

2. The Eradication of Baalism

After the elimination of Ahab's decedents, Jehu undertakes to destroy the idolatrous system of Baal.

False gods must be eliminated. There is the worship of a false god; and then there is false worship of the True God!

{IV} THE ASSESSMENT OF JEHU

The dissatisfaction with Jehoram. Those like Jehoram will always have trouble bringing satisfaction to God's people.

The devotion to Jehu. These men were making a total commitment; a complete commitment even if it meant death.

1. Jehu's Strengths

A. Spiritual discernment 9:22

There is still a great need for spiritual discernment in order to understand the things of God

B. Faith in God's Word 10:10

When everyone and everything fails.... God's Word remains faithful and true. Faith in His Word is essential.

C. Hatred of idolatry 10:24

In line with God's Word, Jehu despises idolatry

2. Jehu's Weaknesses

God is faithful to record the weakness along with the strengths.

It is through these weaknesses that we can be warned....

A. The weakness of EXCESS

His zeal exceeds the boundaries of God. Going beyond God's directions will only result in trouble.

B. The weakness of DECEIT 10:18

Even in dealing with the enemy one must not resort to deception.

C. The weakness of Inconsistency 10:28-29

A major problem even today is the inconsistency of God's people

D. Disobedience and Disregard for God and the things of God

If we are not cautious we too can fall into these areas of weakness and come to a place of disobedience and disregard.....

We must be found "Living the Abundant Life"

STUDIES IN THE LIFE OF ELISHA # 14 THE ABUNDANT LIFE

CHALLENGE THAT IS POWERFUL 2 Kings 13:14 – 21

[I] CONFLICT 13:14-17

Conflict has come to Israel

1. Analysis

A. There is proclamation here

The conflict or warfare is proclaimed

B. Principles are seen

➤ Obedience

The principle of obedience has always been a priority

➤ Dependence

This has always been a top priority also.... Obedience to God is closely connected with dependence on God.

C. Promises

Thank God for His promises to us in times of conflict.

His promises are true and trustworthy

2. Application

This is a reminder for us that we too are engaged in a warfare.

And if we survive we must follow His Principles – Holding fast to His Promises.

[II] CONSTERNATION 13:14

In our daily life we face many difficulties and etc...

1. Facing the Enemy

Knowing who our enemy is! Vital! Understanding how he operates is also vital... Joash's response when facing the enemy was one of fear and not faith.

2. Misunderstanding the Facts 13:14

Evidently Joash did not understand the ministry of Elisha.

He appears to consider Elisha the hope of Israel. It seems that he is looking to Elisha more than to God.

We must be cautious where we place our confidence.....

A. People

B. Places

C. Programs

[III] COMMAND 13:15

God's instructions are of great importance..... Notice....

- 1. Exhortation**
Elisha was eager to teach Joash his responsibility. However Joash must be teachable. We must ever be learning!
- 2. Encouragement**
Elisha places his hands on the king's hands. Participation.
Support from others is encouraging
- 3. Explanation 13:17 – 21**
Without explanation Joash would not understand. Elisha gives him an opportunity....
 - A. Elisha's Requirements 13:18**
The kings was to act and act decisively
 - B. The king's Response.**
He smote three times and stopped. Indicating his lack of faith.

[IV] CONCLUSION 13:20 – 21

- 1. The occasion of the miracle**
 - A. A time of defeat 13:20**
In the midst of defeat they experienced a great miracle of life
 - B. In their defenselessness**
At a time when we cannot defend ourselves; we need a miracle of life from God.
 - C. At a time of death**
God gives life even in death!
- 2. Origin of the miracle**
Miracles of life do not come from the hands of man
Miracles of life come from the hand of God
- 3. Object of the miracle**
 - A. Jehovah Alive**
 - B. Jehovah Active**
 - C. Jehovah Almighty**
- 4. Obvious Conclusion**
The obvious conclusion to our entire study of Elisha finishes with the major essence of his life.

Elisha was a prophet of

[1] Unblemished Character

His life exemplified

- 1. No Contamination**
- 2. No Compromise**

[2] Unqualified Commitment

Consisted of

- 1. Separation**
- 2. Service**

[3] Unlimited Confidence

Complete confidence in

- 1. The will of God**
- 2. The Word of God**

[4] Uninterrupted Communion

Constant

- 1. Fellowship with God**
- 2. Faithfulness to God**

[5] Universal Love

A love that passes understanding

- 1. The source of this love GOD**
- 2. The scope of this love Universal**

It is truly ‘LIVING THE ABUNDANT LIFE’