

50+ Sunday School Class

All Saints Presbyterian Church
Austin, TX

Led by Rev. Craig Chapman
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Life of Elisha

Powerful Faith in the Face of Apostasy

Fall 2022

Taught by Rev. Craig Chapman

Life of Elisha – 10/9/2022

- 9/11 – *Life of Elisha* 1 – 2 Kings 2:19-25 – 2 Cities: Jericho & Bethel
- 9/18 – *Life of Elisha* 2 – 2 Kings 4.1-7 – Poor Widow
- 9/25 – *Life of Elisha* 3 – 2 Kings 4.8-37 – Family at Shunum
- 10/2 – Guest Teacher – Rev. Adam Radcliff
- **10/9 – *Life of Elisha* 5 – 2 Kings 5 – Naaman & Gehazi**
- 10/16 – *Life of Elisha* 6 – 2 Kings 6.1-7 – Floating Axe Head
- 10/23 – *Life of Elisha* 7 – 2 Kings 6.8-23 – Lord, Open Our Eyes
- 10/30 – *Life of Elisha* 8 – 2 Kings 6.24-7.2 – Siege & Son
- 11/6 – Guest Teacher
- 11/13 – *Life of Elisha* 10 – 2 Kings 13.10-19 – Arrows & Errors
- 11/20 – *Life of Elisha* 11 – 2 Kings 13.20-21 – Can These Bones Live?

Fall 50+ Calendar

- **Friday, 9/30**
 - **Oktoberfest Party at All Saints – 6.30-9.30 PM**
- **Thursday, 10/13**
 - Tours of State Capitol & Governor's Mansion – *Closed*
 - Lunch at the Capitol Cafeteria
- **Friday, 11/11**
 - Dinner at Milano Café – 5.30 PM
 - Tenebrae Concert at Redeemer Church – 7.30 PM
- **Friday, 12/2**
 - Annual Christmas Party at the Abernethys' – 6.30-9.30 PM

□ RSVPs – lpayne@allsaintsaustin.org □



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Prayer

“Life of Elisha – Powerful Faith in the Face of Apostasy”

A Very Broad History of Israel

2000 BC – Abraham – (Mid Bronze Age) – Genesis

1500 BC – Moses – (Late Bronze) – Exodus–Numbers

1000 BC – David – (Iron 1) – Samuel–Kings–Chronicles

930 BC – Kingdom Divides: **Israel** & **Judah** (Solomon's death)

885-874 – Omri ... 874-853 – **Ahab** (worst yet) *□ **Elijah** □*

853-852 – Ahaziah (disobedient) “

852-841 – Joram/Jehoram (mostly rotten) *□ **Elisha** □*

841-814 – Jehu (not good, but better than the rest) “

814-798 – Jehoahaz (noncompliant) “

798-782 – Joash (wayward) “

722 BC – Israel's Exile to Assyria

586 BC – Judah's Exile to Babylon

400 BC – Return & Settlement (Persian & Hellenistic) – Nehemiah

4 BC – Christ (Roman) – Gospels

30-100 AD – Church – Acts–Revelation

THE KINGDOMS OF ISRAEL AND JUDAH

1 KINGS 12



- Elijah

- El (God) i (my) jah (Jehovah) = *My God is Jehovah (YHWH)*
= *The LORD is my God*

- 1 Kings 17 – 21 – Ministry of Elijah

- 2 Kings 2 – 13 – Ministry of Elisha

- Elisha

- El (God) i (my) sha (Salvation) = *My God is Salvation*

- = *My God saves*

- Apostasy

- *a falling away, a withdrawal, a defection*

- Judeo-Christian – *a withdrawal from faith and trust (belief) in God*

As we approach the Old Testament, remember . . .

Saint Augustine

- *“The New Testament is in the Old concealed; the Old Testament is in the New revealed.”*
- The “*Christo-centric*” and “*Christo-telic*” nature of Scripture

Luke 24:22-27 - On the Road to Emmaus

- History doesn't actually repeat itself, but it does echo . . .
- 9/18 – 2 Kings 4.1-7 – Poor Widow – food for debts & living
- 9/25 – 2 Kings 4.8-37 – Shunammite Woman – resurrection
- In our weakness, God shows strength, compassion, love for us

THE KINGDOMS OF ISRAEL AND JUDAH

1 KINGS 12



Implications & Applications

- 1—God brings Life where there is barrenness.
- 2—God brings Resurrection where there is death.
- 3— Sometimes God gives gifts not to fulfill a grand redemptive-historical plan, but simply to bless someone
 - This child was non-essential to God's plan of covenant redemption
- 4—Women tend to be the ones who witness (receive) resurrection miracles
 - The marginalized or powerless are who first tend to understand and respond to the gospel of grace & mercy (not the religion of self-reliance & control)
- 5—Elisha's life-giving covering of the Shunammite boy portrays our reality in Christ—God sees him, not us

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2 Kings 5:1-7

Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Syria, was a great man with his master and **in high favor**, because by him the Lord had given victory to Syria. He was a mighty man of valor, but he was a **leper**. ² Now the Syrians on one of their raids had carried off a **little girl from** the land of **Israel**, and she worked in the service of Naaman's wife. ³ She said to her mistress, "Would that my lord were with **the prophet** who is **in Samaria**! He would cure him of his leprosy." ⁴ So Naaman went in and told his lord, "Thus and so spoke the girl from the land of Israel." ⁵ And the king of Syria said, "Go now, and I will send a **letter to the king of Israel**." So he went, taking with him ten talents of **silver***, six thousand shekels of **gold***, and ten changes of **clothing**. ⁶ And he brought the letter to the king of Israel, which read, "When this letter reaches you, know that I have sent to you Naaman my servant, that you may cure him of his leprosy." ⁷ And when the king of Israel read the letter, he **tore his clothes** and said, "Am I God, to kill and to make alive, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? Only consider, and see how he is seeking a quarrel with me."

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2 Kings 5:8-14

⁸ But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent to the king, saying, “Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come now to me, **that he may know there is a prophet in Israel.**” ⁹ So Naaman came with his horses and chariots and stood at the door of Elisha's house. ¹⁰ And **Elisha sent a messenger** to him, saying, “Go and **wash in the Jordan seven times**, and your flesh shall be restored, and you shall be clean.” ¹¹ But **Naaman was angry** and went away, saying, “Behold, I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call upon the name of the LORD his God, and wave his hand over the place and cure the leper. ¹² Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?” So he turned and **went away in a rage.** ¹³ But his servants came near and said to him, “My father, it is a great word the prophet has spoken to you; will you not do it? Has he actually said to you, ‘Wash, and be clean’?” ¹⁴ So he went down and dipped himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God, and his **flesh was restored** like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.

Life of Elisha – 10/9/2022

2 Kings 5:15-20

¹⁵ Then he returned to the man of God, he and all his company, and he came and stood before him. And he said, “Behold, I know **there is no God in all the earth but in Israel**; so accept now **a present from your servant**.” ¹⁶ But he said, “As the Lord lives, before whom I stand, I will receive none.” And he urged him to take it, but **he refused**. ¹⁷ Then Naaman said, “If not, please let there be given to your servant two mule **loads of earth**, for from now on your servant will not offer burnt offering or sacrifice to any god but the LORD. ¹⁸ In this matter may the Lord **pardon your servant**: when my master goes into the house of Rimmon to worship there, leaning on my arm, and I bow myself in the house of Rimmon, when I bow myself in the house of Rimmon, the LORD pardon your servant in this matter.” ¹⁹ He said to him, “Go in peace.” But when Naaman had gone from him a short distance, ²⁰ **Gehazi**, the servant of Elisha the man of God, said, “See, my master has **spared this Naaman the Syrian**, in not accepting from his hand what he brought. As the Lord lives, I will run after him and **get something from him**.”

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2 Kings 5:21-27

²¹ So **Gehazi followed Naaman**. When Naaman saw someone running after him, he got down from the chariot...and said, “Is all well?” ²² He said, “All is well. **My master has sent me to say**, ‘There have just now come to me from the hill country of Ephraim two young men of the sons of the prophets. Please give them a talent of silver and two changes of clothing.’” ²³ Naaman said, “Be pleased to accept two talents.” He urged him and tied up two talents of **silver** in two bags, with two changes of **clothing**, and laid them on two of his servants. They carried them before Gehazi. ²⁴ When he came to the hill, he took them from their hand and **put them in the house**, and he sent the men away, and they departed. ²⁵ He went in and stood before his master, and Elisha said, “Where have you been, Gehazi?” He said, “Your servant went **nowhere**.” ²⁶ But he said, “Did not my heart go when the man turned from his chariot to meet you? **Was it a time to accept** money and garments, olive orchards and vineyards, sheep and oxen, male servants and female servants? ²⁷ Therefore the leprosy of Naaman shall cling to you and to your descendants forever.” So he went out from his presence a **leper**, like

Lessons from 2 Kings 5 – Through Its Characters

- **Naaman** – Saved by God
 - Background – v.1, 5
 - Foreign Enemy (Syrian) – unlikely to meet God
 - Accomplished (Army Commander)
 - successful ... valiant ... revered ... famous ...
 - v.5—wealthy
 - Challenge (Problem)
 - v.1—Leper
 - v.9-12—Pride...Presumption...Self-sufficiency
 - Unmet expectation insults Naaman
 - Salvation is received, not achieved—Ephesians 2:8-9
- Q—Are Naaman's objections yours?

Lessons from 2 Kings 5 – Through Its Characters

- **Naaman – Saved by God**

- **Characteristics**

- Changed Thinking...Toward God (v.15-18)—*now I know there's no God in all the world except in Israel*
- Changed Treatment...of your Possessions (v.15)—*"accept now a present from your servant"*
 - Not giving to get, but to show gratitude
 - When your confidence, self-worth, security is in God and not \$, then \$ is only \$ and easy to give away.
- Changed Perception...of Yourself (v.15-18)—*"your servant"* (5x in 4 verses)—the served becomes servant
- Changed Priority...for All of Life (v.17-18)—God becomes central
 - Gospel gives you balance—courage & humility

Lessons from 2 Kings 5 – Through Its Characters

● Naaman – Saved by God

● **Lessons**

- God's Gospel of Salvation can change anyone
- Suffering can wake us up from the dream of self-sufficiency
- World: Your greatest problems are outside yourself, and the solution is within yourself.
Word of God: Your greatest problems are inside yourself, and the solution is outside yourself (God)
- God's salvation isn't earned or bought; you can only get it by free grace.
 - To become a Christian, all you need is need.
 - Problem: most people don't have need, or admit it

● Q—Have you really met God? Has he changed you?

Lessons from 2 Kings 5 – Through Its Characters

- **Gehazi** – Apart from God
 - Background
 - Prophet's servant – access and exposure to God
 - Challenge
 - Characteristics
 - Gospel Confusion vs. Gospel Clarity
 - Opportunistic for Self vs. Opportunistic for Others
 - Lessons
 - Ask yourself...

Lessons from 2 Kings 5 – Through Its Characters

- **Israeli Slave Girl** – Points to God
 - Background
 - Likely part of the spoils of Syria's victory in war.
 - Before her eyes, parents were probably killed and sibling(s) sold into slavery
 - Lowest of society's low, a dead end life—wrong race in a foreign land ... slave ... female ... young
 - Living in the house of the one responsible for her plight
 - Challenge
 - Bitterness?
 - Compassion!—v.3

Lessons from 2 Kings 5 – Through Its Characters

- **Israeli Slave Girl** – Points to God
 - **Characteristics**
 - Costly forgiveness
 - She bears her suffering to change her heart & others
 - Turned away from bitterness
 - Turned into a useful, wise, helpful person
 - Other-orientation overcomes self-orientation
 - Suffering servant in Naaman's life Naaman saved him
 - She “*paid the price of usefulness*”—forgave, bore the cost
 - Share truth and leave the results to God
 - She did, Naaman believed it, and he was saved

Lessons from 2 Kings 5 – Through Its Characters

- **Israeli Slave Girl** – Points to God

- Lessons

- She Portrays & Points to the Ultimate Suffering Servant—Jesus!
- God’s gracious love extends to all, even foreign enemies

Luke 4.24, 27—“*no prophet is acceptable in his hometown*” ... “*And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian.*”

- To experience God’s grace, we must humble ourselves
James 4.6—“*God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble*”

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Prayer Requests

Next Class on 10/16/22