



Small Group Study Questions

Week 8

1 Kings 19:15-18 (NASB 1995)

15 The Lord said to him, “Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus, and when you have arrived, you shall anoint Hazael king over Aram; **16** and Jehu the son of Nimshi you shall anoint king over Israel; and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah you shall anoint as prophet in your place. **17** It shall come about, the one who escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall put to death, and the one who escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall put to death. **18** Yet I will leave 7,000 in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal and every mouth that has not kissed him.”

2 Kings 8:7-15 (NASB 1995)

7 Then Elisha came to Damascus. Now Ben-hadad king of Aram was sick, and it was told him, saying, “The man of God has come here.” **8** The king said to Hazael, “Take a gift in your hand and go to meet the man of God, and inquire of the Lord by him, saying, ‘Will I recover from this sickness?’” **9** So Hazael went to meet him and took a gift in his hand, even every kind of good thing of Damascus, forty camels’ loads; and he came and stood before him and said, “Your son Ben-hadad king of Aram has sent me to you, saying, ‘Will I recover from this sickness?’” **10** Then Elisha said to him, “Go, say to him, ‘You will surely recover,’ but the Lord has shown me that he will certainly die.” **11** He fixed his gaze steadily *on him* until he was ashamed, and the man of God wept. **12** Hazael said, “Why does my lord weep?” Then he answered, “Because I know the evil that you will do to the sons of Israel: their strongholds you will set on fire, and their young men you will kill with the sword, and their little ones you will dash in pieces, and their women with child you will rip up.” **13** Then Hazael said, “But what is your servant, *who is but* a dog, that he should do this great thing?” And Elisha answered, “The Lord has shown me that you will be king over Aram.” **14** So he departed from Elisha and returned to his master, who said to him, “What did Elisha say to you?” And he answered, “He told me that you would surely recover.” **15** On the following day, he took the cover and dipped it in water and spread it on his face, so that he died. And Hazael became king in his place.

DIGGING DEEPER

What is your normal response when it comes to getting bad news?

What are the different reasons that bad things happen to us?

Read 2 Kings 8:7-9

What's interesting about this passage?

Do you think that Elisha was surprised by this encounter?

Read 2 Kings 8:10-12

Why do you think that Elisha wanted good news delivered, when it was actually bad news?

When given the option, do you like good news first, or bad news first?

DIGGING DEEPER

What do Elisha's tears show us?

Who is this bad news for?

Read 2 Kings 8:13-15

Look at Hazael's response...if the prophecy is true, how does this man change when he is king?

God promises judgment on the wicked. How does this judgment affect your life?

PRAYER REQUEST