

## II Kings 4-5 –22 September 2022

### “But What Kind Of Faith?”

#### Introduction

\*These books demonstrate that a king’s allegiance to God’s Law was the key to success & protection

\*We’ve seen Elisha used on a national scale, but God cares for the individual

\*Today Elisha is sent to individuals to grow their faith

\*The call of God throughout His Word is to come to Him in faith believing Him to do great things

\*Jer 33:3 – Call unto Me & I will...shew you great & mighty things

\*We say, “I have faith”, but of what quality is it and to what extent does it guide our life and decisions?

\*Today, we continue to look at ministry of the Prophet Elisha & we’ll consider the faith of those he encounters

**\*So we’ll ask ourselves 4 questions help us analyze our own faith**

## #1: How much faith do I have? (Chap 4:1-7)

Read Chap 4:1

1. The 'sons of the prophets' weren't unmarried monks hiding in the mountains
2. Sons would work to pay off family debt

Read Vs 2

1. We are called upon to use what little we have, believing that God will supply more for tomorrow

Read Vs 3-6

1. By what measure of faith she collected vessels, was the measure of the blessing she received
2. Notice she had to experience this walk of faith, Elisha couldn't do it for her

Read Vs 7

1. She chose to come, obeyed in faith, and then lived that way!
2. Rewards in eternity based on our faithfulness now
  - a. Parables of the Talents & Read Rev 22:12

## #2: Is my faith alive now or resting on yesterday? (Chap 4:8-31)

Read Chap 4:8-11

1. Hospitality on display even before she knew that he was anyone important – from her heart

Read Vs 12-13

1. Notice her modesty to live simply
2. Read Phil 4:11-12 – *Contentment is a choice not an attainment* (REPEAT)

Read Vs 14-17

1. Having no child is tragedy b/c
  - a. No hope of the Messiah thru their family
  - b. No one to care for her in her old age

Read Vs 18-20

1. *Don't live by old miracles, but by today's faith*
  - a. Abe was miraculously given Isaac, but still had his faith tested later about offering Isaac

Read Vs 21-23

1. Husband didn't have faith to believe God could impact his life...just his Sunday -stale

Read Vs 24-27

1. You will notice as the story unfolds that Gehazi is into religion, not relationship
2. Elisha clearly sees the personal relationship aspect of what God's doing for His people

Read Vs 28-31

1. So using the staff didn't work
2. She put her faith in man of God, not in a staff
  - a. There's relationship with people, not items
  - b. Hezekiah, nehushtan (it's a thing of naught)

**#3: Is my faith prompting positive dynamic action? (Chap 4:32-44)**

Read Chap 4:32-37

1. Every miracle of God is unique, no method

2. Notice her thankfulness in vs 37
3. So her dynamic living faith led to this miracle & she's forever etched in Hebrews 11 for it

Read Vs 38-41

1. Notice in all these miracles, there's no going backwards (removing the poison cucumbers)
2. We need only to look to God to add the good and press forward
  - a. In the stew of life, we put many poisoned things into our minds/heart – move forward adding only the good meal of the Word of God
  - b. In church, stay concerned w/ adding good; God will separate the wheat from the tares later
  - c. God is light & has made us light to be added to the darkness of this world

Read Vs 42-44

1. Miraculous feeding of the 100 – like Christ
2. Elisha was much like Christ in his miracles

## **#4: Is my faith pointing others to God's power & glory? (Chap 5:1-27)**

Read Chap 5:1

1. Leprosy is pic of sin, Lev 13 says if it goes below skin, it is leprosy, but temptation strikes all

Read Vs 2-3

1. Purifying effect of 1 believer in this situation!
  - a. Saw this w/ Jehoshaphat in chap 3
  - b. Saw this w/ believing spouse in I Cor 7

Read Vs 4-7

1. "Why are you coming to me?"
  - a. Child of God is able to provide answers
  - b. In Gen 41:15-16 – Joseph says to Pharoah, 'it's not me, but God will give you the answer'
  - c. In Dan 2:26-28 – Daniel says, 'no man can do this, but there is a God in heaven that can'

## Read Vs 8-9

1. Christians want the lost & dying world to know that the Lord has all the answers they need...
  - a. But do they have faith to believe it
  - b. Read Luk 4:27 & Matt 13:58

## Read Vs 10-12

1. Takes faith, not just to believe that God has the answers, but that God's methods & timing is right

## Read Vs 13-14

1. Faith isn't hard physically, it's hard spiritually
  - a. Oh how easy it is to be saved!
  - b. We struggle b/c we want to earn God's favor or show ourselves worthy to receive

## Read Vs 15-16

1. Don't even give the appearance that God's grace and blessings are for sale or exchange
  - a. Read Gen 14:21-24 – Make it known that we prosper b/c of God hand on us, not man's

- b. Read Dan 5:16-17 – Make it clear that you expect nothing for doing the work of the Lord
- c. Read Act 8:19-21 – Can't buy God's gifts

### Read Vs 17-19

- 1. Naaman pledges to only worship the Lord
- 2. He also asks for understanding that he has to support the king's false worship
  - a. What a clear example of Elisha showing grace to a baby Christian
    - i. Naaman heart is in the right place but needs time to sort out the mess
  - b. Give a new believer time to grow & purify by the Holy Spirit, not by rule after rule

### Read Vs 20-24

- 1. After salvation, some Christians are roped into legalism - now that you're saved, you have to...
- 2. Gehazi had to lie to make this happen
- 3. Naaman's heart is pure and willing, but Gehazi's heart is greedy for earthly gain



Read Vs 25

1. Another lie to maintain his religion efforts

Read Vs 26-27

1. The desire to heap up riches in this life is the opposite of faith
  - a. There's a fear that you don't have enough for tomorrow
  - b. There's a desire to live for this life & not eternity
2. Cleansing of leprosy is only found in the cross of Jesus – Lev 14

## Conclusion

So, is there a quality of our faith in Christ that's missing or needs to change?

1. **How much faith do we have?**
2. **Is our faith alive now or resting in yesterday?**
3. **Is our faith prompting positive dynamic action?**
4. **Is our faith pointing others to God's power?**