THE RUIN OF GEHAZI

Intro: 2 Kings 5:1-27. This passage relates the story of Naaman and how his leprosy was cured. Since the cure was by the power and grace of God, Elisha refused a reward. However, Elisha’s servant, Gehazi, did take pay. Notice the results.

1. 2 Kings 5:20-27 “But Gehazi, the servant of Elisha the man of God, said, Behold, my master hath spared Naaman this Syrian, in not receiving at his hands that which he brought: but, as the LORD liveth, I will run after him, and take somewhat of him. 21So Gehazi followed after Naaman. And when Naaman saw him running after him, he lighted down from the chariot to meet him, and said, Is all well? 22And he said, All is well. My master hath sent me, saying, Behold, even now there be come to me from mount Ephraim two young men of the sons of the prophets: give them, I pray thee, a talent of silver, and two changes of garments. 23And Naaman said, Be content, take two talents. And he urged him, and bound two talents of silver in two bags, with two changes of garments, and laid them upon two of his servants; and they bare them before him. 24And when he came to the tower, he took them from their hand, and bestowed them in the house: and he let the men go, and they departed. 25But he went in, and stood before his master. And Elisha said unto him, Whence comest thou, Gehazi? And he said, Thy servant went no whither. 26And he said unto him, Went not mine heart with thee, when the man turned again from his chariot to meet thee? Is it a time to receive money, and to receive garments, and oliveyards, and vineyards, and sheep, and oxen, and menservants, and maidservants? 27The leprosy therefore of Naaman shall cleave unto thee, and unto thy seed for ever. And he went out from his presence a leper as white as snow.”

2. There are many lessons to be learned from a study of this episode: Rom. 15:4 “For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.”

I. RIGHT CIRCUMSTANCES DO NOT GUARANTEE RIGHT CONDUCT.
   A. There are many other illustrations of this fact.
      1. God with Adam and Eve; Gen. 3
      2. Eli and his sons; 1 Sam. 2
      3. David and Absalom; 2 Sam. 15
      4. Philip and Simon; Acts 8
      5. Paul and Demas; 2 Tim. 4:10 “For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.”
      6. Possibly the greatest example is Christ and Judas.
   B. What is the application?
      1. Do not judge a preacher by his converts.
      2. The fact that you are a Christian does not guarantee that your children will be. (It does help).
      3. The fact that you are a member of the church does not guarantee your entrance into heaven or that you shall not sin.

II. THE ORIGIN OF SIN: MAN’S IMAGINATION.
   A. A well known Biblical fact.
      1. Only after Eve saw the fruit did she eat; Gen. 3:6 “And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.”
      2. The sons of God saw the daughters of men; Gen. 6:1-2 “And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them, 2 That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose.”
      3. Lot saw and pitched his tent toward Sodom; Gen. 13:10 “And Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered every where, before the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrha, even as the garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt, as thou comest unto Zoar.”
4. David saw Bathsheba; 2 Sam. 11:2 “And it came to pass in an eveningtide, that David arose from off his bed, and walked upon the roof of the king’s house: and from the roof he saw a woman washing herself; and the woman was very beautiful to look upon.”

5. Peter began to sink when he saw the waves; Mat. 14:30 “But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me.”

B. Pro. 23:7 “For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee.”

1. If you would live a sinless life then think of that which is holy.
2. When we fail to control our thinking, we fail to control our lives.
3. Rom. 12:2 “And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”
4. Notice the connection with repentance.

III. NO SIN IS EVER UNKNOWN.
A. This also is a well known principle.
1. Adam and Eve in the Garden.
2. Cain and Abel.
3. Achan and the forbidden gold of Jerico.
4. Ananias and Sapphira.
B. We may deceive our fellowman, but not God.
1. Pro. 15:3 “The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.” (Mat. 6:4, 6, 18 “That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly.... But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.... That thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father which is in secret: and thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly.”)
2. Psa. 139:7-8 “Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there.”
3. Num. 32:23 “But if ye will not do so, behold, ye have sinned against the Lord: and be sure your sin will find you out.”

IV. WE NEVER KNOW WHERE SIN WILL END.
A. This is true in one sense only.
1. Adam
2. Cain
3. Achan
5. Ahab: death and dogs licking up his blood.
6. Nation of Israel no doubt did not realize that sinning would result in her complete rejection and destruction as a nation.
B. However, in another way we do know where sin will end.
1. Eze. 18:4, 20 “Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die.... The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him.”
2. Rom. 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”
3. Jam. 1:15 “Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.”

Conclusion: Sin will end in our ruin. Death will be the result of sin. Separation from God and His blessings. However, Christ is the answer for sin. Upon our obedience to Him, we can have our sins washed away by His blood.