



THE REDEEMED CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF GOD

CHRIST THE LORD PARISH

1-5 ADMIRALITY ROAD, LEKKI PHASE 1, LEKKI

Digging Deep – Tuesday, June 27, 2023

Topic: ELISHA – HIS LIFE & MINISTRY (4)

Key Texts: 2 Kings 4:38-44, 2 Kings 5:1-15 & 2 Kings 6:1-7

Introduction

Thus far in the Study of the Life and Ministry of Prophet Elisha, we have studied his Calling, his Transformation after he saw Elijah raptured and working of some Miracles. Today, we study how God provided for Elisha and those associated with him. We lay emphasis on how God manifests Himself. We then study the healing of Naaman, with emphasis on the mistakes he made and how he could have missed out of the great miracle. Finally, we study the recovery of the lost axe head, a great analogy for the restoration of the soul of man.

OUTLINE 1: THE LORD, OUR PROVIDER

Scriptures – 2 Kings 4:38-44

- A. We must care for both the spiritual and physical well-being of our fellow brethren – 2 Kings 4:18
- B. God provides for his people in accordance with His Word (vs 43-44). Just like Jesus fed the 5,000 (Mat 14:15-21) and 4,000 (Mat 15:32-38), the word of the Lord worked through Elijah and will still work through you (Phil 4:19)
- C. God gives in answer to prayer (Mat 7:7). Prayer does not make God more willing to give. Rather, it provides the channel through which He can give
- D. God provides for His people at the appropriate time; often allowing us get to the end of our resources before He sends His special provision
- E. God provides for His people in a suitable way – Luke 11:11-13
- F. God provides for His people from unexpected sources - “a man came from Baal Shalishah” (v42). Remember, Elijah was fed by Ravens (1 Kings 17:4) and sustained by a penniless widow (1 Kings 17:9)
- G. God provides for His people usually through a human channel (v42); both physical and spiritual needs (Mat 14:16-19)
- H. God provides adequately – He is not a miser; always leaving leftovers (v43-44; Mt 14:20; Mt 15:37)
- I. God provides for an unselfish purpose – the provisions from the “man from Baal Shalishah” was not sufficient for 100 sons of the prophets, yet Elisha shared freely. Jesus also received 5 loaves and 2 fish (Mat 14) and 7 loaves plus few little fishes...for the purpose of feeding the multitude. (1 John 3:17; 2 Cor 1:4; Gal 6:2; Prov 11:24; Ps 23:1))

OUTLINE 2: NAAMAN CLEANSED

Scriptures – 2 Kings 5: 1-15

- A. Like Naaman, like many around us “...a mighty man in valour, but he was a leper”.

- B. The kind maid could not hold her compassion. She was not just a believer, but a witnessing believer
- C. Naaman was not too proud to listen to the testimony of a slave girl.
- D. Naaman made 3 grave mistakes:
 - i. He thought he could buy the cure (v5; 1 Pet 1:18-19; Rom 3:20)
 - ii. He went to the wrong place to be cured (v6). There is only one door (John 10:9; Lk 7:37-38)
 - iii. He wanted to be cured in his own way (Is 55:8-9)...God's way is often simple and effective
 - We are saved by turning (Is 45:22); by calling (Rom 10:13); by coming (Mat 11:28); welcoming (Rev 3:20); entering (John 10:9); touching (Mat 14:36); receiving (John 1:12)
- E. Naaman was cured by a glorious miracle (v14)
 - i. A great humbling - Naaman went "down"
 - ii. A perfect obedience – he had to dip in the water 7 times (v10)
 - iii. A complete cure – v14; 2 Cor 5:17
 - iv. A great conversion – v15

OUTLINE 3: THE RECOVERY OF THE LOST AXE-HEAD

Scriptures – 2 Kings 6: 1-7

- A. Miracle of recovery and restoration
- B. Pattern of Wholehearted Service
 - i. Relationship with the master (Elisha and the company of the prophets) (v1)
 - ii. Fellowship and communion (v1; John 15:4)
 - iii. The need for service (v2)
 - iv. Commissioned men (v2; Mat 28:19). GO!
 - v. Dependence upon the master (v3; John 15:5)
 - vi. Share in the work (v2)
 - vii. Energetic, keen workers (v4)
- C. A peril to be avoided (the lost axe-head akin to gradual backsliding) – lost power (Rev 2:4); working too energetically (1 Cor 2:4); conscious of his loss (Judges 16:20); deeply distressed about his loss (Job 23:3)
- D. Procedure to be adopted for restoration (v5-7): (i) immediately stop working (Lk 24:49); (ii) make full and frank confession to our master (1 Jn 1:9); (iii) show our master the place you lost it (iv) the miracle is a restoration via the cross – the stick (1 Pet 2:24; 1 John 1:7); (v) put out your hand and take it – step of faith

Conclusion:

The three miracles studied today showcase the power of God as our provider and provides some guidelines in how to receive the abundant provisions in the Lord through humility, complete obedience, repentance (when we fall) and finally complete dependence on the power of the Holy Ghost, our axe-head in this Christian race...for without Him, we can do nothing. May we be doers of all the lessons of today in Jesus Name.