

## **“FUTURE FAILURE”**

**2 Kings 4:29-32**

*Gehazi: A man called – but was exposed as not having what it takes. We need to look at why - deal with future failure*

### **I. FUTURE FAILURE**

#### **A. Fantasy:** Some men live in a fantasy world

1. My attendance is enough: I'm in the church/in the class...But I will have a great future
2. My position is enough: gehazi was “Elisha's servant”
3. I'm currently not doing what I should/what I hope to be doing someday...but somehow it will be OK

*a. Gen 1:12 The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.*

#### **B. Future:** Some men live totally in the future

1. Someday...I will deal with my issues 2. Someday... I'll be a man of God

*a. Not realizing your future is simply the harvest of the seeds you plant today*

*1. Gal 6:7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatever a man sows, that shall he also reap.*

*b. Many areas: Spiritual life/evangelism/relationships/finances*

*1. Luke 16:10 He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.*

*a. A larger stage will simply be a larger version of what you already are!*

#### **C. Foolishness:**

1. Gehazi had some serious character flaws/heart issues: *Covetousness/hypocrisy/lack of love for people*

*a. Foolish: My heart issues aren't that big of a deal...won't really make much difference*

1. We can point to things we do right/compare with others...it will be OK

### **II. THE UNVEILING**

#### **A. Our scripture shows that what we are will always be exposed**

1. At some point – it will be shown that something is missing

*a. 2 Kings 4:31 Now Gehazi went on ahead of them, and laid the staff on the face of the child; but there was neither voice nor hearing. Therefore he went back to meet him, and told him, saying, "The child has not awakened."*

*b. Disciples praying for boy while Jesus on the mountain: Why couldn't we cast it out?*

2. Crucial moments of life: God has been noticing what we have been ignoring

*a. Crisis situations b. Go out and pioneer*

#### **B. Because God loves us – He often arranges us to see this before we go into ministry**

1. Lack of power now – lack of fruitfulness now

*a. Disciples: Why couldn't we cast it out? But now they can be honest and seek help from Jesus*

2. Also shows this in our relationships

*a. The boy's mother didn't want Gehazi – she knew he didn't care!*

1. Marriage problems 2. Conflict with others

### **III. DEALING WITH IT**

#### **A. The real question: *Will we deal with it?***

1. Gehazi had to admit some weakness – but he didn't seek help!

*a. Never asked questions b. Never sought direction*

2. Eventually his heart caused his destruction

*a. Covetousness/hypocrisy brought judgment in leprosy: Never able to become what God called to be*

#### **B. But this is avoidable**

1. If we are honest, God will help us with what we lack

*a. Mark 9:28-29 And when He had come into the house, His disciples asked Him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" So He said to them, "This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting."*

1. Practical direction in obtaining power

*b. Elisha: I will not leave you...I don't have what I need – but I intend on getting it*

2. He was looking toward the future

*a. Gal 6:8 For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.*

*b. Luke 6:38 Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.*

3. What do you want to be? Do it now.

*a. What kind of people do you want in your life in the future? Be like that now*