

Handout November 10, 2023

Temptation
II Kings 5:1-26

Welcome back and here we go!

Today's sermon is focused on a chapter that spotlights the power of God through people overcoming lack of faith and pride, also on God's grace, and ultimately, the stain of sin and the destruction it can bring.

II Kings 5:1-19

***** (Prayer for Holy Spirit) *****

Points to Ponder

- V. 1-6 • _____ comes by hearing.
- V. 7 • Without _____ you won't be healed. (Other people's lack as well.)
- V. 8-12 • _____ prevents healing.
- V. 13-14 • _____ brings healing. (Be honest about your issues.)
- V. 15-17 • You can't buy _____.
- V. 18-19 • God's _____ knows no limits.

(Don't say I can't change now because of my situation)

Okay, plenty of sermons here, right? Let's get to the message. While the story is beautiful, it is tainted by sin. Our story is similar.

- We hear about God.
- We act on that.
- We humble ourselves.
- Then sin sneaks in!

II Kings 5:20-26 'But Gehazi, the servant of Elisha the man of God, said, "Look, my master has spared Naaman this Syrian, while not receiving from his hands what he brought; but as the Lord lives, I will run after him and take something from him." So Gehazi pursued Naaman. When Naaman saw him running after him, he got down from the chariot to meet him, and said, "Is all well?" And he said, "All is well. My master has sent me, saying, 'Indeed, just now two young men of the sons of the prophets have come to me from the mountains of Ephraim. Please give them a talent of silver and two changes of garments.'

“Where did you go, Gehazi?” And he said, “Your servant did not go anywhere.” Then he said to him, “Did not my heart go with you when the man turned back from his chariot to meet you? Is it time to receive money and to receive clothing, olive groves and vineyards, sheep and oxen, male and female servants? ’

Wow - that’s what happens!

- _____ always tarnishes God’s work.

Do you see how this wonderful story is dirtied by another’s sin.....

This happens in our relationships, family, friends..... even strangers.

- _____ leads to loss of peace, hope, even grace gifts.

Are you tempted by anger, unforgiveness, greed, lust, anxiety?

All of these things quench the work of the Spirit.

1 Corinthians 10:13-14 'No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it. Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.'

The _____ of sin will stick to you and hinder your walk.

Like Elisha, God is just asking of you, a few simple things.

- REPENT
- RESIST
- BELIEVE

1 Peter 5:5-11 'Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for “God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.” Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you. Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world. But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you. To Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.'

- Be humble - Be honest.
- Be sober - meaning be rational and temperate - stable thinking.
- Vigilant - honest about your temptation.
- Resist - really want to be better and take any step necessary!
- Stay confident - God will perfect you.

Let’s Pray.