People Who Charge for Air January 26, 2020

*2 Kings 5:20-27 Series: Help When You Feel Helpless*

Don’t be surprised by deception. Rather, anticipate it. Assume it. Not everyone who wears a collar and uses a Bible is to be trusted.” – Costi Hinn

Intro: Who is worthy of the water?

1. You’re ‘pulling a Gehazi’ when your prejudice corrupts God’s grace.
2. Gehazi couldn’t stand to see grace extended to an enemy outsider.

v. 20 *my master has spared this Naaman the Syrian*

v. 1 *Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Syria, was a great man with his master and in high favor, because by him the LORD had given victory to Syria.*

1. Prejudice says, ‘You have to belong to my group to be accepted.’

James 2:8-9 *If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing well. But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors.*

1. The grace of God freely invites outsiders in.

Ephesians 2:13 *But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.*

Acts 10:34-35 *So Peter opened his mouth and said: “Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.”*

* What are some expressions of racism that you see or experience today?
* How did Gehazi’s prejudice risk distorting Naaman’s understanding of God’s grace? i.e. If the people of God will never accept a Syrian what does that say about God?
* How does the gospel undo our prejudice?

1. You’re ‘pulling a Gehazi’ when your greed corrupts God’s grace.
2. Gehazi couldn’t stand to see a healing given for free.

v. 20 *As the LORD lives, I will run after him and get something from him.*

v. 22 *There have just now come to me from the hill country of Ephraim two young men of the sons of the prophets.*

v. 22 *Please give them a talent of silver and two changes of clothing.*

1. The grace of God gives freely.

v. 21 *… he got down from the chariot to meet him and said, “Is all well?”*

v. 23 *Naaman said, “Be pleased to accept two talents.”*

v. 23 *And he urged him and tied up two talents of silver in two bags … and laid them on two of his servants*

v. 23 *And they carried them before Gehazi.*

Matthew 10:8 *You received without paying; give without pay.*

* How should we view giving toward God in light of the fact that there is still the potential for Gehazis in the church?
* How would you describe Naaman’s attitude in this chapter, having been touched by the grace of God?
* Why should the grace of God produce such generosity in us?

1. You’re ‘pulling a Gehazi’ when your impatience corrupts God’s grace.
2. Gehazi’s timing made his crime all the worse.

v. 26 *Was it a time to accept money …?*

1. Impatience turns the result of grace into a condition of grace.

Luke 15:1–2 *Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.”*

1. Getting the grace of God a little wrong isn’t a little wrong.

v. 27 *Therefore the leprosy of Naaman shall cling to you and to your descendants forever.*

Galatians 1:8 *But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed.*

* What was so wrong about the timing of Gehazi’s request?
* What are some ways that we turn the results of grace into conditions of grace?
* Why was Gehazi’s discipline so severe?
* Where do you most need help in applying this passage?

Study ahead: Next week, we’ll study Matthew 6:9-13.

Notes