

Fascinating Stories of Forgotten Lives Rediscovering Some Old Testament Characters

Gehazi: The Servant Who Got Greedy

2 KINGS 5:15–27



The Heart of the Matter

We just considered the story of Naaman, who was cleansed of leprosy. It is a wonderful, miraculous story of God's power and grace at work through Elisha in the life of a man who knew nothing of the Lord's presence. This story comes on the heels of that one. Actually, it is a sequel to that account . . . the flip side of God's working in that man's life. As we shall see, deep in the heart of Elisha's helper, Gehazi, were smoldering embers of greed. Silently, secretly, they remained hidden. No one could tell by looking. Words never passed from Gehazi's mouth, admitting such sin, but it was there nevertheless. Through a series of events, those embers burst into full flame. As we recount the story, we want to take sufficient time to examine our own hearts and determine if we suffer from a similar malady.



Discovering the Way

1. An Analysis of Greed

Greed is an inordinate desire to acquire more and more, by any means possible. It expresses itself in the appetite for money, possessions, fame, and pleasure.

2. An Account of Greed (2 Kings 5:15–27)

Naaman offered Elisha a very valuable gift—“ten talents of silver and six thousand shekels of gold and ten changes of clothes” (2 Kings 5:5). Elisha refused it, but Gehazi wanted that stuff! Gehazi pursued the goods, lied to Naaman, and deceived Elisha to cover his tracks.

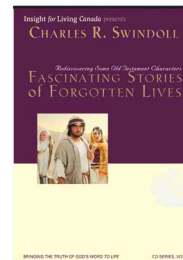


Starting Your Journey

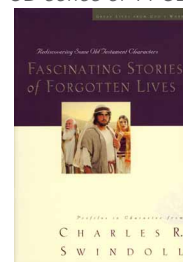
Remember four lasting lessons about secret greed: imagination allows greed to grow; rationalization encourages greed to surface; deception gives greed courage to persist; and confession brings greed to a necessary and abrupt end.



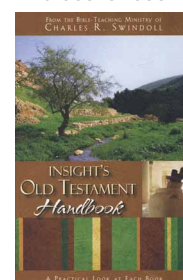
Tools for Digging Deeper



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