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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

A1547 ~ Gehazi Coverts Naaman's Money.

Welcome to Bible Adventures. Help for today. Hope for tomorrow. Jesus is Lord of all.

When Naaman, the Syrian commander, went to Israel to find a cure for his leprosy, he was an important and proud man. When Naaman's delegation visited the King of Israel with a letter from the Syrian king asking for a cure, the King of Israel didn't know what to do. A message came to the palace from the prophet Elisha, telling the king to send Naaman to him. When Naaman stood outside Elisha's door, it was Elisha's servant Gehazi who answered. He told Naaman Elisha's message to wash seven times in Israel's Jordan River.

Naaman, as proud as he was, expected Elisha to heal him in some religious ritual. He scorned to be healed in the dirty Jordan River. He would have returned to his home still a leper if one of his servants hadn't drawn his attention to how easy Elisha's instructions were to follow.

Naaman listened to his servant's words and changed his mind. He obeyed the words of Elisha and went to the Jordan River and dipped himself seven times. As he came up out of the water the seventh time, Naaman was immediately and miraculously cured of leprosy. He was so thankful that his life and future had been restored to him. He returned to Elisha's house to happily thank him with generous gifts.

DRAMA - [The Bible In Living Sound.](#)

Elisha declined Naaman's offer of silver and expensive clothes. Elisha didn't want Naaman to think that cures given by the living God could be bought. The cure came by trusting only in God's ability to heal. Naaman had learnt that God is willing to help those who come asking Him in faith.

Elisha's servant Gehazi knew firsthand how a godly person honoured God with their life. Although he had seen Elisha help many people through amazing miracles, he didn't have a devoted heart for God himself. While he seemed to be a willing worker for Elisha, Gehazi had no understanding why Elisha had refused any payment at all. He may have even carried a prejudice against the Syrian people because of Israel's past troubles with them. Gehazi needed to forgive the Syrians and trust God with his life. We need to forgive our enemies too as this is conditional on receiving God's forgiveness for our own sins.

Gehazi reasoned that Naaman had obvious wealth and could afford to give something. Not wanting to lose out, he quickly thought up a plan to get some of Naaman's wealth for himself. To do so, he had to run quickly down the road after the departing Syrian horses. Then while speaking to Naaman, Gehazi had to tell lies about his master and pretend that the money and clothing he requested weren't for himself!

When Gehazi next spoke to Elisha in the house, Gehazi denied going anywhere. As a penalty for his greed and lying, he received leprosy in full measure. He'd told lies to Naaman, Elisha and himself but he couldn't tell lies to God. Gehazi became poor and an outcast by trying to get rich.

Like Gehazi, we too may live close to a godly person and see their good example each day without copying their behaviour and faith. It's important we examine our attitudes and motives to see if they are in line with God's ways. By asking God's Holy Spirit to reveal any wrong in our own lives, we will soon think of things to confess and then receive a sense of God's presence with us.

It's a great temptation to look for money in all the wrong places and ways when doing God's work. We each need to have faith in God that He'll supply all our needs for doing His ministry. Gehazi looked at the abundance of Naaman's wealth and thought he was entitled to some of it. Gehazi didn't have a genuine use or plan for what he would do with what he took. He acted foolishly indeed.

Temptation starts in the mind and this is the place to defeat it. Satan knows that if he can get people to envy what others have, he can cause a Christian to sin by selfishness and a lack of contentment in God. But Satan cannot cause a person to envy and covet if they have a thankful heart to God for what they already have.

Why did Gehazi want more from Naaman? He had the best human and heavenly masters in the world and he lacked nothing. It is a strange paradox in life that people who covet other people's possessions end up giving away their own good things for the desire of wanting to get something they don't need. Gehazi ended up losing his health, his honour, his peace and service. If he didn't repent, he would have lost his soul too. The Scriptures don't tell us what happened to him. Elisha believed in a God of justice and he too, did not try to excuse Gehazi's sin in any way.

Gehazi's wrongdoing made the Syrians devalue Israel's God. Instead of returning home rejoicing in God's miracle to Naaman, the Syrians thought less of Elisha after hearing Gehazi's story. The Syrians had seen Elisha refuse payment at his home but then appear to seek money and gifts from them in a roundabout way. It is a sad thing that in many churches, worshippers have the distinct feeling that their church officials only want them for their money. This heaviness brings sacred worship times down to a level that matches the world's way of thinking and acting.

Gehazi hindered the Syrians' faith in God's full care for them and there wasn't any way that Elisha could reverse the matter. What we do has an effect on other people. If we do well, others are blessed but if we sin, we become a hindrance to their faith instead. The words of an old hymn say:

"We cannot be channels of blessing if our lives are not free from known sin;
We will barriers be and a hindrance to those we are trying to win."

There are many things in life that money cannot buy, such as health and happiness or a home in heaven. So how then should we regard money? A wise person in the Old Testament book of Proverbs, Chapter 30, says: "Let me be neither rich nor poor. So give me only as much food as I need. If I have more, I might say that I do not need you. But if I am poor, I might steal and bring disgrace on my God."

If you have a big ambition in your heart to be rich, ask God to renew you with desires for Him only. Ask Him to forgive you and help you to use what you already have for His work. In the New Testament letter from the Apostle Paul to the Colossian church, it says: "Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth."

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.

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