

Gehazi's Disasterous Quick Decision (2 Kings 5:20–27)

Gehazi's bad I.D.E.A. was to quickly run after wealthy Naaman to receive a gift through dishonesty (5:20, 22).

I. INSIGHT (Gehazi's foundational, worldly thinking)

- . . Gehazi should have rejoiced in Naaman coming to believe in the God of Israel (5:15), but he did not.
- . . He instead focused on Naaman's wealth and the fact that he had offered generous gifts (5:15).
- . . Gehazi showed his selfish perspective by coldly speaking of Naaman as "this Syrian" (5:20).
- . . Gehazi should have thought about WHY Elisha had refused Naaman's gifts, but he did not.
- . . It was an opportunity to gain spiritual insight, but Gehazi had to learn the hard way.
- . . Gehazi's main "insight" in 5:20 seems to have been a worldly and negative one about Elisha.
- . . He probably concluded that Elisha was too spiritual to be wise regarding finances.

D. DETAILS (the details in Gehazi's plan)

- . . The details that stand out most about Gehazi's plan and actions are his dishonesty.
- . . He lied to Naaman (5:22) and to Elisha (5:25).
- . . He quickly came up with a false story to explain his request (5:22).
- . . Another interesting detail is about Gehazi storing the items away in the house (5:24).
- . . This was like what a thief might do and was part of his dishonesty.
- . . Also the details in Elisha's long question in 5:26 may indicate how Gehazi planned to use the money.
- . . Otherwise, the many details in 5:26 (*olive groves, vineyards, sheep, etc.*) seem out of place.

E. ENERGY, ENTHUSIASM (Gehazi's greedy enthusiasm)

- . . Gehazi's greed motivated him to energetically run after Naaman (5:21).
- . . *So having enthusiasm for something does NOT necessarily indicate that God is in it.*
- . . *It is always important to think about WHY I am enthusiast (or not) for a certain plan.*
- . . Perhaps Gehazi was motivated by a desire to pass on an inheritance to his descendants (5:26).
- . . We do not know what happened to Naaman's gifts. Probably Gehazi kept them, but. . .
- . . The closing emphasis is on Gehazi **and** his descendants receiving Naaman's leprosy (5:27).

A. ASSURANCE (Gehazi's lack of godly assurance)

- . . Gehazi rushed off quickly after Naaman without seeking assurance from the Lord.
- . . On the way back with his gifts (5:23–24), Gehazi probably was confident that he had acted wisely.
- . . His misplaced assurance quickly vanished when Elisha and God (!) confronted him (5:25–27).
- . . In order to avoid such a disasterous end, Gehazi should have consulted Elisha at the beginning.

applications

- . . *It is usually not good to rush off quickly. — So be more careful. Check more.*
- . . *It is not good to focus on riches. — So be spiritually minded and care about others.*
- . . *It is not good to tell lies. — So be honest to God, others, and yourself (by checking motives).*