

FAITHFUL LIVING IN FALTERING TIMES | THE LIVES OF ELIJAH AND ELISHA

FAITH LIKE A CHILD: THE LEPER

2 Kings 5:1-14

11.5.23

Swallowing your pride is a small price to pay for the only remedy that can cure your condition

Fivefold regimen as a treatment plan for pride:

#1 HONOR WHO'S IN CHARGE: THE REACH OF GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY (1A)

"I'M NOT GOD"

Two ways to honor who's actually in charge:

#1 Relinquish your own claims to superior status

As much as your status may tempt you to believe it; you are not supreme

#2 Remember where success actually comes from: '...the LORD had given victory...' (1A⁴)

The ultimate source of your success is outside of you

#2 LEARN FROM YOUR TROUBLES: THE TRUTH ABOUT OUR VULNERABILITY (1B-3)

"GOD KNOWS THAT MY PROBLEMS ARE REAL AND HE CARES"

Two realities our troubles force us to contend with and submit to:

#1 Take stock of the tragic suffering God ordains (1B-2A)

This world is filled with suffering troubles for all

#2 Take part in the dramatic compassion God offers: '.....and she worked in the service of Naaman's wife. She said to her mistress, "Would that my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy."...' (2B-3)

God has such compassion for sufferers, that he sometimes offers helps to his suffering enemies through his own suffering people

#3 APPRECIATE YOUR NEED: THE DEPTH OF OUR INSUFFICIENCY (4-7)

"I NOT ONLY NEED HELP; I NEED GRACE"

Two ineffective reactions to our need for help that suppress a healthy response of true faith:

#1 Beware extreme endeavors (4-6)

#2 Beware extreme despair (7)

#4 EMBRACE GOD'S WILLINGNESS: THE WONDER OF GOD'S AVAILABILITY (8-10)

"GOD LOVES TO HELP, BUT DOES SO AS HE SEES FIT"

Three ways to lay hold of God's willingness:

#1 Rethink your perspective: '...But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent to the king, saying, "Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come now to me ...' (8a)

God's word is full of him taking initiative with offers to help over and over again

#2 Remember his purpose: '...that he may know that there is a prophet in Israel...' (8b)

God loves to help in ways that remind people of who he is and what he does

#3 Respect his approach (9-10)

God loves to help in ways that push people to trust him more than what the world offers

#5 ACT ON WHAT GOD SAYS: THE IMPORTANCE OF OUR RESPONSIBILITY (11-12)

"I'M GOING TO ACT ON THIS"

Two kinds of states you may be in:

#1 For those struggling (11-13)

#2 For those ready (14)