

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Discuss the difference between covetousness and contentment.
2. Why would a rich man be covetous?
3. What was God's response to Ahab's sin?
4. Discuss God's reaction when Ahab repented?

SUMMARY:

Ahab desired something that was not his. He offered a fair price for it, but when this was rejected he pouted until his evil wife Jezebel used devious, evil ways to obtain this property. As in this case, covetousness leads to varying degrees of other sins to gain the object coveted. God condemned the sins and their perpetrators and assured swift judgment. The Word of God says there was none as wicked as Ahab (vs. 25) and yet when Ahab repented and humbled himself, God's judgment and wrath was withheld for a time. Ahab may well have been fully pardoned had he continued in this humility instead of returning to a way of sin and finally receiving the fullness of God's wrath and judgment.

NOTES:

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #6

May 9, 2004

Second Quarter

ELIJAH REBUKES AHAB'S COVETOUSNESS

LESSON TEXT: *1 Kings 21:1-29*

LESSON SETTING: Naboth's vineyard and King Ahab's palace in Jezreel.

TIME: Approximately 899 B.C.

- I. A COVETOUS KING.** 1 Kings 21:1-4
 - A. Covetousness (vs. 2) Ezekiel 33:31; Luke 12:15; 2 Peter 2:14
 - B. A Pouting King (vs. 4) Jonah 4:1, 3, 8-9
- II. A SCHEMING QUEEN.** 1 Kings 21:5-16
 - A. Treachery (vs. 8) Judges 16:19; Matthew 26:48-49
 - B. Conspiracy (vs. 11) Mark 14:11; Acts 23:12-13
- III. A COMMISSIONED PROPHET.** 1 Kings 21:17-26
 - A. A Commission Given (vs. 18-19) Exodus 3:10; 1 Kings 19:15-16
 - B. The Commission Fulfilled (vs. 20) 1 Kings 19:19; Mark 6:7-13
 - C. A Description of Ahab (vs. 25-26)
- IV. A MERCIFUL GOD.** 1 Kings 21:27-29
 - A. A Repentant King (vs. 27) Jonah 3:5-9; Psalm 51:17
 - B. God's Mercy Revealed (vs. 29) Psalm 108:4; Micah 7:18

GOLDEN TEXT: *INCLINE MY HEART UNTO THY TESTIMONIES,
AND NOT TO COVETOUSNESS.*

Psalm 119:36

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: 2 Kings 2:1-22

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: Genesis 5:21-24; Joel 2:1-32;
John 14:18-26 Acts 1:1-2:47

QUARTERLY THEME: Kings and Prophets of Israel

TOPIC: THE SECRET OF SPIRITUAL POWER

INTRODUCTION:

Our story deals with a number of people who were prophets of God. However, two of them Elijah and Elisha, apart from the other fifty prophets, walked close to God. Our account deals with their experience and is a lesson to us of what is needed to be filled with power from God.

Elijah was to be taken to his eternal rest and he instructed Elisha to stay back. Elisha proved his faithfulness and devotion by refusing to leave the side of his teacher and master. Because of this he was permitted to see Elijah being taken into heaven. Had he been less faithful and less devoted, had he stayed back at Elijah's urging, he would not have seen this great sight and would not have received the double portion of the power of the Spirit that he had requested.

If we desire the power of the Spirit today we must be fully committed and devoted to God. It is our choice if we would be like Elisha. Full commitment and total obedience means staying close to the Lord no matter what comes, just as Elisha stayed close to Elijah. When we prove ourselves in this way only then will the Lord fill us with the power of the Spirit.

CENTRAL TRUTH: If we meet God's conditions we will have the Holy Spirit's anointing on our lives.

GOLDEN TEXT: *YE SHALL RECEIVE POWER, AFTER THAT THE HOLY GHOST IS COME UPON YOU: AND YE SHALL BE WITNESSES UNTO ME.* Acts 1:8

Ye shall receive power!! How often we lacked power in our unconverted state to do the things that we knew we ought to do. How many have wanted to turn to the Lord, but had a fear in their hearts that they would not be able to be steadfast and live a consistent Christian life. It is true we cannot live this life as we know ourselves and our weaknesses, but the Lord also knows our weak frame and He has promised us the Holy Spirit to come upon us and enter into our hearts and through the Holy Spirit we gain this power. Things that we could not do now become second nature to us. Evil habits that controlled our lives now are repulsive. All of the things of the flesh, wrath, lying, evil speaking, or whatever they may be are now brought under control by this power.

But to receive this power and to continue in it we must be submissive to God and desire to be obedient to His Word. We must yield to His authority and be willing to do His bidding and go where He wants us to go. We must do these things when He wants us to do them and not at our convenience.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF May 10 - 16

- M. *Yearnings for the Spirit's Power. 2 Kings 2:1-10
- T. *Testing the Spirit's Power. 2 Kings 11:11-15
- W. *Skeptics of the Spirit's Power. 2 Kings 11:16-18
- T. *Exercising the Spirit's Power. 2 Kings 11:19-22
- F. Joel Prophecies Pentecost. Joel 2:23-32
- S. Christ Promises the Holy Spirit. John 14:18-26
- S. God Honors Christ's Promise. Acts 2:1-8