

## **Gehazi**

2 Kings 5:15-27

by Don Falkos

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After being healed of his leprosy, Naaman went back to Elisha. This time the prophet came out to meet him. Naaman said, "Now I know the God of Israel is the one true God." And he offered Elisha a gift.

But Elisha refused, "As surely as the Lord lives, whom I serve, I will not accept a thing."

Naaman proclaimed, "I will never again worship any god but the Lord. Please, may I take with me as much dirt as two mules can carry? Then when I return home to Aram I will still be able to worship the Lord on the soil of Israel."

Elisha reassured him, "All will be well. Go in peace."

Naaman started on his way. Elisha's servant, Gehazi, chased after him thinking, "As surely as the Lord lives, I will get something of value from this Aramean." Naaman saw him coming and got down from his chariot to greet him. "Is everything all right?"

Gehazi lied, "My master sent me. He says he was too quick in turning down your gift. Two young men have just arrived for a visit. He would like to give them some money and clothing. Can you help?"

"Of course," said Naaman, and he gave Gehazi a large amount of money and two sets of clothing.

Gehazi hid this loot in his own house. Then he went to be with Elisha. The prophet asked, "Where have you been, Gehazi?"

"Nowhere!"

Elisha said, "My spirit was with you when Naaman got down from his chariot to greet you. It wasn't your place to accept gifts from him – money and clothing. Because of what you have done, Naaman's leprosy will now be on you and your descendants forever." Instantly, Gehazi's skin became white with leprosy.