

Sunday Sermon Notes ***"Settling for Almost"***

Question: Why do so many seem to fall short?

The curse of spiritual leprosy:

Sin that destroys relationships
Sin that guarantees defeat
Sin that kills very slowly
Sin that cannot be cured

Reaching a point of desperation:

Acknowledging its seriousness: Hopelessness
Identifying the remedy: Transformation
Choosing to take action: Deciding
Making the journey: Seeking

Faced with God's realities:

My own resources are useless
The messenger is a servant
It requires total trust
The transformation will be real

So what keeps me from jumping in?

False expectations
Prideful feelings
Stubborn attitudes
Fearful thoughts

What happens when I "Settle for Almost"?

I have probably begun to feel better
I have probably begun to think better
I have probably begun to look better
But I have not yet really been transformed

Nothing great really happens until I make the plunge!
Nothing is more tragic than being "Almost Persuaded."

Digging Deeper

Notes for Individual Meditation and Small Group Discussion

Reviewing the Sermon:

How do you feel about the idea of "spiritual leprosy"? How have you seen it at work in your own life or the life of someone you know?

How important do you think it is for a person to reach a point of desperation? When has this ever happened to you?

Why do you think some people are willing to "settle for almost" in their spiritual lives? In what ways has "settling for almost" been a problem for you?

What do you think could really happen in your life and in our church if we were to really "make the plunge" in our lives?

What do you think would be the greatest benefit to genuine revival breaking out in our church and community?

Discussion Questions

(Remember that not all questions must be used)

Radio commentator Paul Harvey is known for his segments called "the rest of the story." Our Bible study for this week will be focusing on the rest of the story about Naaman and the prophet Elisha.

Please read 2 Kings 5:15 – 27.

There are basically three types of "theistic" beliefs about God. We are "monotheists" meaning that we believe there is only one true God. Other people are "polytheists," who believe that

there are many gods who should be worshiped. It appears that in Old Testament times there was another form known as "henotheism." Henotheism was the belief that each group of people had their own god or gods. The Israelites had their God, Yahweh, but other nations had their own "competing" God.

Naaman was an Aramean. who had their own gods. What does Naaman's statement in verse 15 tell us about henotheism? How do we see the idea of henotheism being promoted today? Why do Christians see this concept as being very dangerous?

Why do you think Elisha, the prophet, would not accept the monetary gifts from Naaman? How do you think this compares with the attitude of some "Christian" ministries today?

How did Elisha's refusal to take the money affect Naaman? How do you feel about his request to be allowed to continue worshipping in the temple of Rimmon? Can you think of any applications for this accommodation today?

What do you think motivated Elisha's servant, Gehazi, to do what he did? How have you seen people do similar things today?

Naaman seemed very willing to give the money and gifts to Gehazi. How do you think what Gehazi did affected Naaman's opinion and attitudes toward the Lord, Yahweh?

Why do you think Elisha was so disappointed in what Gehazi did? How just do you think the punishment Gehazi received was? How might a similar punishment be experienced today?

Prayer time:

Please make prayer for revival in your life and in our church the focus of your group's prayer time. Let members of your group share their personal burdens for revival in their own lives.

Revival Fires

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2 Kings 1-14

*"Settling for
Almost"*

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Master copy of notes and audio version of the sermon at
www.middletownnaz.com