

Stewardship Series
January 19, 2025– 10:30 am
Gehazi – Money’s Tempting Side

Zion Lutheran Church
1400 South Duluth Avenue
Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57105

www.zionlutheransf.com

 **Zion Lutheran Sioux Falls**

AS WE GATHER

Money Talks! That’s the name of the three-week sermon series we’re in. Today’s money talk comes from 2 Kings 5. The focus? A greedy man named Gehazi.

ZION CHOIR: “Take My Voice and Let Me Sing”

WELCOME | ATTENDANCE | PRAYER CARDS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREET ONE ANOTHER

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Godliness with contentment is great gain.

People: For we brought nothing into the world, and it is certain that we can take nothing out.

Pastor: But if we have food and clothing, we will be content.

People: People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap.

Pastor: For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil.

People: Some people, eager for money—

Pastor: Have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

People: Command those who are rich in this present world—

Pastor: Not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth.

People: Command them to be generous and willing to share.

Pastor: In this way we will lay up treasure for ourselves as a firm foundation for the coming age.

PRAYER of CONFESSION

Pastor: Jesus says, “No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money” (Matthew 6:24) Almighty God—

People: If we are honest with you, we have a hard time believing this verse.

Pastor: We become anxious about money, and we won’t let go.

People: We think we can manage it without you.

Pastor: We have a difficult time believing that you will care for us.

ALL: O God, we need your help.

Pastor: Break us open.

People: Crack our shells.

Pastor: Grant us repentance.

People: Forgive us and take us back.

Pastor: Free to be yours.

People: Free to serve in Christ’s holy name.

[Silence for reflection on God’s Word and for self-examination]

Pastor: Jesus died on the cross to free us from the dark prison of greed. He rose from the dead to shatter the doors of guilt and shame. For his sake and by his command I announce to you that your sins are fully and forever forgiven in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen. Thanks be to God!

PRAISE SONG: He Is David Crowder | Hank Bentley | Jeff Pardo

Verse 1

If you're troubled Heavy hearted
Come to Jesus and find your peace
If you're run down Empty handed
Come to Jesus and find your strength He is

Chorus

Hope for the hopeless Rest for the weary Help for the hurting
He is, He is Mending the broken Bearing the burdens
All that you're needing He is

Verse 2

If you're wandering In the darkness
Come to Jesus and find your way

If you want freedom Need forgiveness
Just come to Jesus and find His grace He is

Chorus

Hope for the hopeless Rest for the weary Help for the hurting
He is, He is Mending the broken Bearing the burdens
All that you're needing He is

Bridge

Comforter, Counselor, Prince of Peace Author and Maker of everything
Defender, Deliverer, King of kings He is, He is
Helper and Healer forevermore Savior and Shelter through every storm
My Refuge, Redeemer and Lord of Lords He is, He is
Child of Heaven and Son of Man Provider, Protector, the great I AM
Alpha, Omega, Beginning and End He Is, He Is

Chorus

Hope for the hopeless Rest for the weary Help for the hurting
He is, He is Mending the broken Bearing the burdens
All that you're needing He is
All that you're needing He is

CCLI Song # 7172903

TIME IN THE WORD

Children's Bible Reading: Page 194

Reader: Today's readings are about money's tempting side.

Old Testament Reading: 2 Kings 5:1-27

Now Naaman was commander of the army of the king of Aram. He was a great man in the sight of his master and highly regarded, because through him the LORD had given victory to Aram. He was a valiant soldier, but he had leprosy. Now bands of raiders from Aram had gone out and had taken captive a young girl from Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. She said to her mistress, "If only my master would see the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy." Naaman went to his master and told him what the girl from Israel had said. "By all means, go," the king of Aram replied. "I will send a letter to the king of Israel." So Naaman left, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold and ten sets of clothing. The letter that he took to the king of Israel read: "With this letter I am sending my servant Naaman to you so that you may cure him of his leprosy." As soon as the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his robes and said, "Am I God? Can I kill and bring back to life? Why does this fellow send someone to me to be cured of his leprosy? See how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me!" When Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his robes, he sent him this message: "Why have you torn your robes? Have the man come to me and he will know that there is a prophet in Israel." So Naaman went with his horses and chariots and stopped at the door of Elisha's house. Elisha sent a messenger to say to him, "Go, wash yourself seven times in the Jordan, and your flesh will be restored, and you will be cleansed." But Naaman went away angry and said, "I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, wave his hand over the spot and cure me of my leprosy. Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Couldn't I wash in them and be cleansed?" So, he turned and went off in a rage. Naaman's servants went to him and said, "My father, if the prophet had told you to do some great thing, would you not have done it? How much more, then, when he tells you, 'Wash and be cleansed!'" So, he went down and dipped himself in the Jordan seven times, as the man of God had told him, and his flesh was restored and became clean like that of a young boy. Then Naaman and all his attendants went back to the man of God. He stood before him and said, "Now I know that there is no God in all the world except in Israel. So please accept a gift from your servant." The prophet

answered, “As surely as the LORD lives, whom I serve, I will not accept a thing.” And even though Naaman urged him, he refused. “If you will not,” said Naaman, “please let me, your servant, be given as much earth as a pair of mules can carry, for your servant will never again make burnt offerings and sacrifices to any other god but the LORD. But may the LORD forgive your servant for this one thing: When my master enters the temple of Rimmon to bow down and he is leaning on my arm and I have to bow there also—when I bow down in the temple of Rimmon, may the LORD forgive your servant for this.” “Go in peace,” Elisha said. After Naaman had traveled some distance, Gehazi, the servant of Elisha the man of God, said to himself, “My master was too easy on Naaman, this Aramean, by not accepting from him what he brought. As surely as the LORD lives, I will run after him and get something from him.” So Gehazi hurried after Naaman. When Naaman saw him running toward him, he got down from the chariot to meet him. “Is everything all right?” he asked. “Everything is all right,” Gehazi answered. “My master sent me to say, ‘Two young men from the company of the prophets have just come to me from the hill country of Ephraim. Please give them a talent of silver and two sets of clothing.’” “By all means, take two talents,” said Naaman. He urged Gehazi to accept them and then tied up the two talents of silver in two bags, with two sets of clothing. He gave them to two of his servants, and they carried them ahead of Gehazi. When Gehazi came to the hill, he took the things from the servants and put them away in the house. He sent the men away and they left. When he went in and stood before his master, Elisha asked him, “Where have you been, Gehazi?” “Your servant didn’t go anywhere,” Gehazi answered. But Elisha said to him, “Was not my spirit with you when the man got down from his chariot to meet you? Is this the time to take money or to accept clothes—or olive groves and vineyards, or flocks and herds, or male and female slaves? Naaman’s leprosy will cling to you and to your descendants forever.” Then Gehazi went from Elisha’s presence and his skin was leprous—it had become as white as snow.

Here ends the Reading.

Epistle Reading: 1 Timothy 6:11-16

But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses. In the sight of God, who gives life to everything, and of Christ Jesus, who while testifying before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you to keep this command without spot or blame until the appearing of our Lord

Jesus Christ, which God will bring about in his own time—God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honor and might forever. Amen.

Here ends the Reading.

Please rise out of respect for the words and ministry of Jesus Christ.

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 6:24-26

“No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money. “Therefore, I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?”

Here ends the Reading.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

MESSAGE

APOSTLES’ CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

OFFERING | TREASURE BOX

OFFERING SONG: Great Is Thy Faithfulness

1 Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
There is no shadow of turning with Thee.
Thou changest not: Thy compassions, they fail not;
As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be

Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

2 Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness
Lord, unto me!

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PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH (Responsive)

Pastor: Almighty God, you have named us and claimed as your children in Holy Baptism and set us on a path to make disciples of all nations.

People: We praise you, O God our Redeemer Creator.

Pastor: You call us to trust your mercy and to invest in the Gospel mission of our church and schools.

People: In grateful devotion our tribute we bring.

Pastor: There is no escape from your judgment, O Spirit of Holiness, but neither can we flee beyond your limitless love.

People: We lay it before you, we kneel and adore you.

Pastor: We offer our financial gifts for caring use among the suffering; for gentle use among the hurting; for encouraging use among the dispirited; for powerful use in worldwide missions; and for worship, teaching and service within this church.

People: We bless your holy name, glad praises we sing.

+ Additional prayers +

Pastor: In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: Now to God who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine—

People: According to his power that is at work within us.

Pastor: To him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever!

ALL: Amen.

CLOSING SONG: “The Same Power” Jeremy Camp, Jason Ingram

Verse 1

I can see Waters raging at my feet
I can feel The breath of those surrounding me
I can hear The sound of nations rising up
We will not be overtaken We will not be overcome

Verse 2

I can walk Down this dark and painful road
I can face Every fear of the unknown
I can hear All God’s children singing out
We will not be overtaken We will not be overcome

Chorus

The same power that rose Jesus from the grave
The same power that commands the dead to wake
Lives in us, lives in us
The same power that moves mountains when He speaks
The same power that can calm a raging sea
Lives in us, lives in us He lives in us, lives in us

Verse 3

We have hope That His promises are true
In His strength There is nothing we can’t do
Yes, we know There are greater things in store
We will not be overtaken We will not be overcome

Chorus

The same power that rose Jesus from the grave
The same power that commands the dead to wake
Lives in us, lives in us
The same power that moves mountains when He speaks
The same power that can calm a raging sea
Lives in us, lives in us He lives in us, lives in us

Bridge

Greater is He that is living in me He’s conquered our enemy
No power of darkness No weapon prevails We stand here in victory In victory

Chorus

The same power that rose Jesus from the grave
The same power that commands the dead to wake
Lives in us, lives in us
The same power that moves mountains when He speaks

The same power that can calm a raging sea
Lives in us, lives in us He lives in us, lives in us

SEND OFF

Leader: At Zion Lutheran we are committed to reaching out, strengthening the saved,
All: and serving Jesus Christ by serving others!