# The Danger of Greed: Lessons from Gehazi's Story



Explore the story of Elisha's servant Gehazi to understand the dangers of greed and the importance of integrity in our spiritual walk.





#### Table of contents

<u>Introduction</u>	3
Day 1: Introducing Gehazi and His Role	4
Day 2: (5) Gehazi's Greed Revealed	10
Day 3: Consequences of Gehazi's Actions	16
Day 4: O God's Warnings Against Greed	22
Day 5: The Call to Integrity and Honesty	28
Day 6: Trowing Contentment in Christ	34
Day 7: O Living Free from Greed	40







#### Introduction

**The Bible** is a treasure trove of stories that teach us timeless lessons about faith, character, and relationship with God. One such story is that of *Gehazi*, the servant of the prophet Elisha, whose life offers a sobering example of the destructive power of greed.

In 2 Kings 4 and 5, we encounter Gehazi as Elisha's attendant, present during mighty miracles and acts of God's mercy. However, Gehazi allows greed to cloud his judgment, leading to deceit and eventual punishment. His story is a vivid reminder of how even those close to God are vulnerable to temptation and the consequences of compromising integrity.

This 7-day study plan will guide you through the critical moments of Gehazi's story and the broader biblical teachings on greed. It is designed to help you reflect deeply on your own attitudes toward material wealth and honesty. We will explore scripture that highlights God's heart for honesty, warns against covetousness, and encourages an authentic walk with Him.

Through daily devotionals, reflection questions, and journaling prompts, you will be equipped to examine your life in light of Gehazi's example and embrace a lifestyle of integrity and contentment. May this journey inspire you to reject greed and pursue a faith marked by trust, humility, and generosity.

















#### Your Verse

2 Kings 4:1 - The widow of a prophet cried to Elisha for help to pay her debts.

#### **Supporting Scriptures**

- 2 Kings 4:43 Elisha prospers the people through miraculous provision.
- 2 Kings 4:8-10 Gehazi serves Elisha and is present in many miracles.







# Devotional: Understanding Gehazi's Position of Servanthood

Gehazi's story begins with his role as Elisha's servant. He is positioned close to divine power and blessings, witnessing miracles firsthand. Yet, this proximity does not necessarily guarantee spiritual maturity or moral strength. The widow's desperate plea to Elisha in 2 Kings 4 sets the stage for the revelation of God's abundant provision and care.

As we consider Gehazi, it is important to remember that serving God involves more than attending services or being near holy things; it requires a heart aligned with God's values. Gehazi's story invites us to examine how we serve — whether with integrity or selfishness.

When God works mightily through Elisha, Gehazi stands as a reminder that blessings are to be stewarded with honesty, not exploited.







### Reflect and Apply

1.	How does your role or position influence your attitude toward responsibility?
2.	Do you think proximity to spiritual leaders guarantees spiritual growth? Why or why not?
3.	In what ways can serving God require more than just physical presence?







### **Journaling Prompts**

	Write about a time you were in a position of responsibility. How did you handle it?
2.	Reflect on what integrity means in your daily life and service.
3.	Describe ways you can serve God faithfully right where you are.







#### **Prayer for Today**

**Lord,** thank You for the examples in Your Word that teach us about serving with honesty and dedication. Help me to serve You with the right heart, not out of obligation or for selfish gain. Teach me to honor You in every responsibility You've given me. Guard my heart against pride and greed, and make me faithful in the little things so I may be trusted with more. In Jesus' name, *amen*.

















#### Your Verse

2 Kings 5:20-21 - Gehazi runs after Naaman to secretly take gifts.

#### **Supporting Scriptures**

- Proverbs 28:25 "The greedy stir up conflict..."
- Luke 12:15 "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed..."







#### Devotional: Recognizing the Deception of Greed

Gehazi's greed starts to show in a moment of temptation. After Naaman's miraculous healing from leprosy, Elisha refuses any gifts, but Gehazi selfishly pursues Naaman to extract riches for himself. This act of deceit highlights how greed warps judgement and leads us away from God's ways.

Greed is more than desiring wealth; it's an attitude that drives us to take what is not ours and prioritize possessions over obedience and integrity. Gehazi's failure was not only in taking gifts but also in lying to cover his sin.

This domino effect of sin starts small but can lead to spiritual ruin. The Bible continually warns about greed's power to cause conflict and destroy relationships.







Day 2: \delta Gehazi's Greed Revealed

### Reflect and Apply

1.	Have you ever justified sinful behavior because of desire or need?
2.	What are some ways greed can disguise itself in your life?
3.	How can honesty protect us from the dangers of greed?







Day 2: \delta Gehazi's Greed Revealed

### **Journaling Prompts**

1.	Recall a temptation you faced involving wanting something you shouldn't have. How did you respond?
2.	Write about areas in your life where you might be tempted to compromise integrity.
3.	Plan practical steps you can take to avoid acting out of greed.







#### **Prayer for Today**

**Jesus,** guard my heart against the lure of greed and deceit. Help me see clearly when my desires pull me away from Your path. Give me courage to resist temptation and the humility to seek forgiveness when I fail. Teach me to be content in Your provision and faithful with what You entrust to me. In Your name, *amen*. •















#### Your Verse

2 Kings 5:24-27 - Gehazi is struck with Naaman's leprosy as a punishment.

#### **Supporting Scriptures**

- Galatians 6:7 "A man reaps what he sows."
- Psalm 34:18 "The Lord is close to the brokenhearted..."







#### Devotional: Facing Accountability for Sinful Choices

The story of Gehazi takes a serious turn with divine consequences. After his deception is revealed, Gehazi is struck with Naaman's leprosy, a physical manifestation of his sin. This shows God's holiness demands accountability and cannot tolerate greed and deceit.

However, this consequence also reveals God's justice alongside His grace. Although Gehazi suffers, God's Word shows that the Lord remains close to the brokenhearted and calls sinners to repentance. Sin always has consequences, but God desires restoration.

Gehazi's punishment warns us to take sin seriously and highlights the importance of confessing and forsaking greed before it destroys our lives.







### Reflect and Apply

1.	How do you respond when you face consequences for your mistakes?
2.	What does God's justice and mercy mean to you personally?
3.	In what ways can accepting accountability help your spiritual growth?







### **Journaling Prompts**

	Write about a time you faced consequences for your actions and what you learned.
2.	Reflect on how God has shown mercy to you in difficult situations.
3.	Describe how you can practice repentance and seek restoration in your walk.







#### Prayer for Today

**Lord God,** thank You for Your justice and mercy. Help me to accept the consequences of my actions with humility and to turn to You for forgiveness. Purify my heart from greed and deceit, and restore me to walk in integrity. May I learn from Gehazi's mistakes and grow closer to You every day. In Jesus' name, *amen*.

















Day 4: ① God's Warnings Against Greed

#### Your Verse

Luke 12:15 - Jesus warns to guard against all kinds of greed.

#### **Supporting Scriptures**

- 1 Timothy 6:10 "For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil."
- Ecclesiastes 5:10 "Whoever loves money never has enough..."







Day 4: V God's Warnings Against Greed

#### Devotional: Heeding God's Clear Warnings About Greed

Throughout Scripture, God repeatedly warns His people about the dangers of greed. Jesus' words in Luke remind us to be vigilant because greed can stealthily destroy our hearts and relationships. It's important to understand that greed is a profound distraction that pulls our focus from God to possessions.

The Apostle Paul echoes this caution by identifying the love of money as a root of many evils. Our culture often equates success and happiness with wealth, but God calls us to a different standard—contentment and trust in His provision.

Recognizing and heeding God's warnings can help protect us from the pitfalls of greed that caused Gehazi's downfall.







Day 4: **(**) God's Warnings Against Greed

### Reflect and Apply

1.	What are some subtle ways greed can influence your choices?
	How does trusting God affect your perspective on money and possessions?
3.	Which Scriptures about greed resonate most with your current situation?







Day 4: **(**) God's Warnings Against Greed

### **Journaling Prompts**

1.	List ways you can practice contentment in daily life.
2.	Write about how you can keep God at the center of your financial decisions.
3.	Reflect on any cultural messages you've absorbed about money and how they align with Scripture.







Day 4: **(**) God's Warnings Against Greed

#### **Prayer for Today**

**Heavenly Father,** open my eyes to the dangers of greed in my life. Help me to guard my heart and keep my focus on You, my true treasure. Teach me to be content with what You provide and to use my resources for Your glory. May Your Word be my guide and shield. In Jesus' powerful name, *amen*.

















#### Your Verse

Proverbs 11:3 - "The integrity of the upright guides them..."

#### **Supporting Scriptures**

- Psalm 15:1-2 "Who may dwell in your sacred tent? Those who walk blamelessly..."
- 2 Corinthians 8:21 "We aim to be honest..."







#### Devotional: Embracing a Life of Honesty and Integrity

#### God desires His followers to live lives marked by integrity and honesty.

Proverbs reminds us that integrity is a guiding light in a world filled with temptation and moral compromise. Gehazi's story contrasts sharply with this ideal, showing what happens when we stray from God's standards.

Living with integrity means our actions reflect our faith consistently, even when no one sees. It demands courage to speak the truth and to refuse shortcuts that compromise our values.

Embracing honesty not only honors God but also builds trust with others and fosters peace within ourselves.







### Reflect and Apply

1.	In what areas of your life do you feel challenged to be fully honest?
2.	How does integrity impact your relationships with others and God?
3.	What practical steps can you take to grow in integrity daily?







### **Journaling Prompts**

1.	Write about a time when being honest was difficult but rewarding.
2.	Reflect on areas where you can improve your integrity.
3.	List ways you can encourage others to live with honesty.







#### Prayer for Today

**Lord,** help me to live with a heart of integrity and truth. Give me strength to be honest in all circumstances and courage to do what is right even when it's hard. Let my life reflect Your holiness and love. May integrity guide my steps, and may I bring glory to Your name. In Jesus' name, *amen*.  $\bigcirc$ 

















Day 6: F Growing Contentment in Christ

#### Your Verse

Philippians 4:11-12 - Paul shares his secret of contentment.

#### **Supporting Scriptures**

- 1 Timothy 6:6 "Godliness with contentment is great gain."
- Hebrews 13:5 "Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content..."







Day 6: Forowing Contentment in Christ

#### Devotional: Finding True Contentment in God Alone

Contentment is a powerful antidote to the lure of greed. The Apostle Paul, despite hardships, learned how to be content in every situation because his joy and security came from Christ, not possessions.

Developing contentment requires shifting our focus from what we lack to the blessings God has already given us. It frees us from the endless desire for more and increases our capacity for gratitude and generosity.

As we grow in Christ, we can resist the temptation to emulate Gehazi's greed and instead find peace in God's faithful provision.







Day 6: 🍞 Growing Contentment in Christ

### Reflect and Apply

1.	How do you usually respond when you feel dissatisfied?
2.	What are practical ways to cultivate contentment in daily life?
	How does knowing Christ as your provider change your view of material possessions?







Day 6: 🍞 Growing Contentment in Christ

### **Journaling Prompts**

1.	Write about blessings that bring you joy and satisfaction.
2.	Reflect on times God has provided in unexpected ways.
3.	Plan ways to express gratitude regularly, even in struggle.







Day 6: F Growing Contentment in Christ

#### Prayer for Today

**Gracious Father,** teach me to be content, trusting fully in Your provision. Fill my heart with gratitude and peace, guarding me against covetousness. Help me to rely on Jesus as my true source of joy and strength, no matter my circumstances. May I live generously and freely, reflecting Your goodness. In Jesus' name, *amen.* 









## Day 7: 6 Living Free from Greed









Day 7: O Living Free from Greed

#### Your Verse

1 John 2:15-17 - Do not love the world or anything in it.

#### **Supporting Scriptures**

- Matthew 6:19-21 Store up treasures in heaven.
- Romans 12:2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world.







Day 7: O Living Free from Greed

# Devotional: Choosing God's Kingdom Over Worldly Greed

To live free from greed is to set our hearts on eternal treasures rather than temporary things. John makes it very clear that loving the world's material desires separates us from God. Gehazi's story is a cautionary example of the danger in giving in to worldly temptations.

Jesus redirects our focus to the heavenly, where our true treasure is secure and imperishable. Transforming our minds to reject worldly patterns empowers us to live in holiness and freedom.

By prioritizing God's kingdom, we break free from greed's grip and embrace a life marked by generosity, faithfulness, and eternal perspective.







Day 7: **(iii)** Living Free from Greed

### Reflect and Apply

1.	What are practical ways you can store treasures in heaven today?
2.	How does renewing your mind help in avoiding greed?
3.	What changes can you make to align your desires with God's kingdom?







Day 7: **(iii)** Living Free from Greed

### **Journaling Prompts**

1.	List habits you can develop to reduce attachment to material things.
2.	Reflect on how generosity has impacted your spiritual growth.
3.	Write about how you can focus more on eternal values this week.







#### **Prayer for Today**

**Father God,** help me to love You above all else and reject the temptations of the world. Renew my mind to see what truly matters and to store my treasures in heaven. Empower me to live generously, humbly, and free from greed's grip. May my heart remain fixed on Your eternal kingdom, today and always. Through Christ, *amen*.







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