

II. Lesson # 1: *Keep a Solid Respect for the Lord, His Work and Workers*

A. The relationship of prophet/servant; teacher/student in some case studies:

1. Elijah and Elisha: 2 Kings 2
2. Elisha and an Unnamed servant 2:Kings 6:15ff
3. Elisha and Gehazi: 2 Kings 4:12, 5:20 and 8:4
4. Jeremiah and Baruch: Jeremiah 32 and 45

These will all show a common picture of the “prophet” giving declarations and the student saying “yes”. There is a point in Gehazi’s service where a bit of rebellion is seen (we would be crazy if we did not know some of this exists in all ages) with regard to some fancy clothes but when we read his estimate of his master in chapter 8 we are satisfied that subordination was put back in order. The students are not sycophants or “yes-men” in spite of my earlier note but their regard for their teachers and the Lord who is over all is a main feature. Baruch has the hardest lot of them all (my opinion) as is seen in Jeremiah 36 but he will come out “swinging” even if he does not get the degree of reward he thought might be his! (Jeremiah 45)

B. The teaching or lessons, as you will.

- 1, Accept God’s calling for your life: Elisha, 1 Kings 19:19, Baruch Jeremiah 45. I know it is not always so clear but when one knows it one must be prepared to live it out. Let me tell you about some of my teaching experiences.....I always wanted to teach but when I was assigned a class that was not academically gifted...I decided to sweat it out because it was my calling and having prayed for a teaching position it was no time to give it up then or now!
2. Learn from those who go before us. 2 Kings 2, Elisha sees how Elijah crossed the Jordan and he profits from the lesson as well as many other things.
3. Apply the lessons that are given. There is a caveat in this and it revolves around the character of the teaching. Occasionally even the best of humans will fail and we need to stay close to the Word of God, just in case. But before you apply the lesson, be sure you understand it and then you can move forward. Note the text and situation in 1 Kings 20:35 etc. But follow the instructions even if they should be as sharp as those given in Jeremiah 36:4 and following.
4. Make worship primary. See the example in 2 Kings 3:15 as well as that in 2 Kings 4:33