"*DEATH IN THE POT*!"

10-11-2026 AM.

INTRO.:

A. Read text: 2 Kings 4:38-41.

B. Regarding the text:

1. This incident in 2 Kings 4 is an interesting study.
2. It demonstrates the power of God working through Elisha, but it also teaches us many lessons.
3. Many think one little sin or one false doctrine is not harmful. Sin and false doctrines will grow and bring spiritual death if not corrected (**1 Cor. 5: 6**).

DISCUSSION: FROM THIS PASSAGE, WE LEARN THAT…

I. APPEARANCES CAN DECEIVE.

A. The gourds appeared to be good for food. False teachers can appear to be sheep "… but inwardly they are ravening wolves."

1. Scribes & Pharisees.
   1) **Luke 18:10-13** parable of Pharisee and tax collector.
      a. They gave the impression of being more righteous.
      b. **Luke 18:14** Who really was? The humble are exalted.
   2) **Matt. 15:7-9** Even though they try to appear good…!
      a. **Matt. 15:3** "But he answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?"
      b. Jesus references **Isa. 29:13**.
   3) In **Matt. 23:25-28** Jesus taught that we could look clean on the outside and be dirty on the inside.
2. **Genesis 3:4** "And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die." Just one word made the difference.

B. Searching for food is like searching for truth.

1. We use a standard to identify what food is good and which is not.
2. The Bible as our manual for truth (**John 8:32**).
3. We recognize error by knowing God's word.
   1) **2 Timothy 2:15**.
   2) **Acts 17:11**.

C. Making judgments by appearance alone is dangerous.

1. We cannot judge whether someone is bad/good by appearance.
   1) Samuel went to anoint one of Jesse's sons as king: **1 Samuel 16:7** "But the LORD said to Samuel, Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have refused him. For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."
   2) We cannot say someone is not interested in the gospel based on appearance. God desires that all be saved (**2 Pet. 3:9**).
2. Many people are overlooked due to their appearance.

II. GOOD INTENTIONS ARE NOT ENOUGH.

A. The servant who gathered the gourds had good intentions, but his good intentions did not keep the gourds from being poisonous.

1. Example of Paul **Acts 26:9** "I verily thought with myself, that I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth."

B. We are not allowed to alter God's word due to our good intentions.

1. **Prov. 30:6** "Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar."
2. **Prov. 14:12** "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death."

III. ONE WRONG PART CAN RUIN IT ALL.

A. We do not know how many gourds were added to the pot. However, we know a small amount ruined the whole pot!

1. **James 2:10** - Sin works the same way in our lives: "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all."
2. **Lev. 10:1-3** Nadab & Abihu offered an unauthorized sacrifice.
3. **Luke 18:18-23** The rich young ruler was missing one thing.
4. **Acts 5:1-10** Ananias & Sapphira taught partial truth in **Acts 18**. (**Matt. 28:20** "...teaching them to observe *all things* that I have commanded you."

IV. GOOD NEWS - THERE IS A CURE FOR SPIRITUAL DEATH.

A. Just as Elisha had a cure for the death in the pot (2 Kings 4:41). "Bring the meal..." death was avoided.

B. God has a cure for the death of our souls.

1. Peter said "repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Chris for the remission of your sins..." The world says you do not have to be baptized to be saved. That is poison in the pot.
2. John identifies the cure for our death to sin **1 John 1:7** "... the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."

C. How do we receive the cure?

1. Hear and believe the gospel: **Mark 16:15-16** "... Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."
2. Confess Jesus as our Savior: **Romans 10:9-10** "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."
3. Repent & be baptized: **Acts 2:38** "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."
4. Be faithful to the Lord **Rev. 2:10** "Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life."

V. IS THERE DEATH IN YOUR LIFE?

A. Why not obey the gospel and remove spiritual death today?

B. Replace death to sin with life in Christ (Gal. 2:20).

C. False teachers want you to drink their poison!