

Do You Know What is in the Pot?

II Kings 4: 38-41

We have read a portion of the ministry of Elisha. His life and ministry had been busy and challenging since he received the double portion from Elijah. He has dealt with the widow whose creditors were about to enslave her children if she couldn't pay the debt she owed.

He then meets a woman of Shunem where he stopped to eat bread. She and her husband were so touched by Elisha that they made him a chamber to dwell in any time that he was passing by. Due to their provision for the man of God, the Lord gave them a son. One day the child fell ill and died. The Shunammite woman came to Elisha and he went with her and spread himself over the child and the power of God delivered him from death.

Now Elisha has returned to Gilgal where there was a school for the prophets. Elisha was teaching young men to be of service in ministry. (I don't know what those who are opposed to preachers getting an education do with this passage.) These verses reveal an interesting event in the lives of God's men. There is a great parallel to the circumstances of our day. I want to look in on the events of that day as we consider the principles for living recorded in this passage. I would like to preach on: [Do You Know What is in the Pot?](#) There is a lot being shared and taken in by many in our day, but we need to be mindful of what is in the pot.

I. The Desperate Reality (38) – [And Elisha came again to Gilgal: and there was a dearth in the land; and the sons of the prophets were sitting before him: and he said unto his servant, Set on the great pot, and seethe pottage for the sons of the prophets.](#)

A. A Dire Condition (38a) – As Elisha returned to Gilgal, the land was in the midst of a great drought. The land was barren and dry and the food sources were limited. It appeared that the young men were in danger of starvation. This was clearly a dire and desperate situation.

- It is difficult to admit, but we too are facing a drought here in America. I am not speaking of a physical drought upon the land, but a spiritual drought within the heart. It saddens me to consider the spiritual barrenness that we are facing in America. Practically every home has a Bible. There are churches on every corner. Our communities are filled with those who profess Christ and yet there is a famine in our land of epidemic proportions. We are experiencing a great falling away from the ways of God. Homes and communities that once lived for the Lord have abandoned their walk with God for the pleasures of the flesh.
- This should come as no surprise. The Bible warned of a day such as this. [Amos 8:11 – Behold, the days come, saith the Lord God, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord: Amos 8:13 – In that day shall the fair virgins and young men faint for thirst.](#) We are facing a dire condition in America today. There is a famine in the land concerning the Word of God.

B. A Devoted Concern (38b) – During his absence things had gotten serious around the seminary. Elisha was concerned for the well being of the young men. He wanted to provide for their needs. He called for a great pot of pottage to be prepared so they might eat and be revived.

- Oh how we need those in our day who will do as Elisha did. We need those who are burdened over the condition of our land. We need those who have a concern for the youth that are coming after us.

- Who among us here at Fellowship will acknowledge the need and get a burden for our day? Who will admit that we stand in need of revival? Who will pray and call out unto the Lord? Who will seek to provide for the needs of those around us? Who will determine to feed the hungry?

I. The Desperate Reality (38)

II. The Dangerous Recipe (39-40) – Here we find that one was obedient to the call of Elisha, but his meal didn't turn out as he desired. In this we see a great illustration of the type of pottage that is being fed in our day. It is important that we are aware of what we are eating. It is vital that we ensure that our children are being fed from the Word not of the world. Let's take a moment to consider the recipe that was prepared.

A. It was Presentable (39) – *And one went out into the field to gather herbs, and found a wild vine, and gathered thereof wild gourds his lap full, and came and shred them into the pot of pottage: for they knew them not.* The young man went to the right place to find herbs for the pottage. He went to the *field* to gather. He was looking in the right place. He never dreamed that he would find anything undesirable among the field of herbs.

- We must be careful in our day as well. There is much that is found among the field that appears to be desirable. There is much that the enemy presents that is often an undetectable counterfeit. We must ensure that we are picking from among the true vine rather than a counterfeit. Everything that glitters is not gold and everything that is presented in the name of Jesus is not holy. We must be wise to what we are feeding our folks.

B. It was Peculiar (39) – The young man may have been looking in the right place, not expecting to find anything harmful, but right there among the field was a *wild vine* that produced *wild gourds*. They may have looked good on the surface, but these were not tame and desirable gourds; they were wild and dangerous.

- There is clearly an abundance of wild vines in our day. The adversary is a master of disguise. He will present things that look desirable and harmless, but they are the product of a wild vine. In the end they bring about death and destruction. We must keep a watchful eye as we pick from the things of this world. We must know what we have and where it came from. If it is of God, then it is good and healthy; if it is of men, then it is dangerous and deadly.

- Jesus is the true Vine. We must ensure that all we harvest is from Him. The world will offer things that look good on the surface, but they are from a wild vine and always produce wild fruit.

C. It was Plentiful (39) – And one went out into the field to gather herbs, and found a wild vine, and gathered thereof wild gourds his lap full, and came and shred them into the pot of pottage: for they knew them not. The young man found an abundance of the wild gourds. They were plentiful within the field. Keep in mind they were in a drought situation. No doubt he was pleased to find such an abundance of what appeared to be fruit that was good to eat. (Many times when things are desperate men find themselves prey to deception. In the lean times Satan will work overtime to lure men into his snare.)

- I don't have to tell you that there is an abundance of wild gourds among us today. Even in Baptist churches, congregations are being taken in by the abundance of wild vines. They have abandoned the truth of God's Word and the holiness of His way for the abundance of the world. (Just because everyone else is doing it doesn't mean that it is of God. There is a lot going on in our world today in the name of Jesus that has nothing to do with the Bible or genuine service to Christ.)

- I am determined to continue with the True Vine even if everyone else desires something else. I am committed to the Book, the Blood, and the Blessed Hope. I am convinced that God's Word is forever settled in heaven, that Jesus lived a perfect, sinless life, that He died in my place on Calvary, that He rose from the dead victorious over sin, and that He is coming again to claim His bride and judge this earth!

D. It was Prepared (39) – The young man shred them into the pot of pottage, for they knew them not. He didn't tell anyone what he had found. He didn't seek the advice of the others. He just shred them up and put them into the pot. The others were completely unaware of the danger that had made its way into the pot.

- That is exactly how the enemy is working in our day. He is convincing some that the ways of the world are worthwhile. There are those who are shredding the things of the world, piece by piece into their Christian lives and even the church. Most are completely unaware of the danger that is lurking.

- We must be careful what is allowed into the pot. We need to guard against the counterfeits of the world finding their way into the church. This world says it is a woman's right to choose; that it is a disease, or an alternate lifestyle. They call it a domestic partnership rather than living in adultery. Little by little the standard is lowered until nothing remains.

E. It was Poison (40) – So they poured out for the men to eat. And it came to pass, as they were eating of the pottage, that they cried out, and said, O thou man of God, there is death in the pot. And they could not eat thereof. They were completely unaware of the danger until the pottage had been prepared and served. Thankfully someone had enough presence of mind to notice the taste and declared that death was in the pot. Had they continued to eat, they would likely have all died.

- Much that is being fed today is poison and many are completely unaware of the death that it brings. Many Christians and churches are dead spiritually because they have feasted on the pottage of wild gourds. I don't want Fellowship to face a spiritual death on my watch. I want to ensure that we are consuming a healthy diet of the things of God. The only way that we can prevent the poison pottage is by knowing what is in the pot and staying close to the Lord and seeking His guidance in our lives.

I. The Desperate Reality (38)

II. The Dangerous Recipe (39-40)

III. A Delightful Resolution

A. The Realization (40) – So they poured out for the men to eat. And it came to pass, as they were eating of the pottage, that they cried out, and said, O thou man of God, there is death in the pot. And they could not eat thereof. They realized that death was in the pot and they refused to eat it as it was. They were aware that this pottage was not healthy and even dangerous. Someone sounded the alarm.

- We desperately need those who are in tune with the Lord. We need those who are walking with Him and can sense the dangers of the enemies attack. We need those who will sound the alarm against the ways of the world and the wild gourds that it offers. I pray that we will be a people who are committed to the truths of God's Word and will not abandon them at any cost or for any reason.

B. The Remedy (41) – But he said, Then bring meal. And he cast it into the pot; and he said, Pour out for the people, that they may eat. And there was no harm in the pot. Elisha called for meal to be brought and mixed into the pottage. By faith God cleansed the poisonous pottage so that they might eat.

- There is a great truth revealed in this verse. In it we see a picture or a type of Jesus Christ our Lord. Meal was used to make bread. Jesus is the Bread of Life. **Jn.6:35 – And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst. Jn.6:51 – I am the living bread which came down from**

heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world. Do you want to ensure that all we present is spiritually sound and healthy? If so make sure that we feast upon the Bread of Life. Jesus is the answer for the needs of our day. We are in a drought situation where humanity needs to be fed. We must ensure that we are offering them the Bread of Life from the True Vine rather than wild gourds from a wild vine.

We probably don't want to admit that we stand in need today, but I can assure you that we do. This young man was a preacher who attended the school of the prophets. He didn't realize the danger of the wild gourds. We need the presence and power of God in our lives to ensure our purity and spiritual health. Satan would like to invade our ranks with false doctrine.