

APOSTOLIC SONSHIP- ABC (L37)

II Ki 5:25-27

25 Now he went in and stood before his master. Elisha said to him, "Where did you go, Gehazi?" And he said, "Your servant did not go anywhere."

26 Then he said to him, "Did not my heart go with you when the man turned back from his chariot to meet you? Is it time to receive money and to receive clothing, olive groves and vineyards, sheep and oxen, male and female servants?

27 "Therefore the leprosy of Naaman shall cling to you and your descendants forever." And he went out from his presence leprous, as white as snow.

(NKJ)

II Ki 6:1-7

1 And the sons of the prophets said to Elisha, "See now, the place where we dwell with you is too small for us.

2 "Please, let us go to the Jordan, and let every man take a beam from there, and let us make there a place where we may dwell." So he answered, "Go."

3 Then one said, "Please consent to go with your servants." And he answered, "I will go."

4 So he went with them. And when they came to the Jordan, they cut down trees.

5 But as one was cutting down a tree, the iron ax head fell into the water; and he cried out and said, "Alas, master! For it was borrowed."

6 So the man of God said, "Where did it fall?" And he showed him the place. So he cut off a stick, and threw it in there; and he made the iron float.

7 Therefore he said, "Pick it up for yourself." So he reached out his hand and took it. (NKJ)

QUESTION

DISCUSS THE CHARACTERISTICS OF SONS IN THE PRESENT APOSTOLIC CONTEXT USING THE ABOVE TEXTS.

APOSTOLIC SONSHIP – ANSWERS - ABC (L37)

THE CHARACTERISTICS OF SONS

1. CHOOSE ACCURATE RELATIONSHIPS

Sons of Elisha did not show solidarity with Gehazi. They did not blame Elisha for Gehazi's leprosy. By remaining with Elisha they chose accurate relationships. Too many folk spend time with the wrong people – with lepers – those cut off from the presence of God.

Elisha the spiritual son of Elijah, chose to walk tenaciously with Elijah.

REVISE THE CONSEQUENCES OF EVIL COMPANY.

Ps 15:1

1 LORD, who may abide in Your tabernacle? Who may dwell in Your holy hill?

(NKJ)

Ps 15:4

4 In whose eyes a vile person is despised, but he honors those who fear the LORD; he who swears to his own hurt and does not change;

(NKJ)

Ps 139:21-22

21 Do I not hate them, O LORD, who hate You? And do I not loathe those who rise up against You?
22 I hate them with perfect hatred; I count them my enemies.
(NKJ)

Rom 1:32

32 who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.
(NKJ)

Eph 5:11

11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.
(NKJ)

2. DWELL WITH THE SET MAN

the place where we dwell with you

dwell – yashab – means to abide, to remain, to settle down, to marry.

Sons marry the set man. Too many folk marry the vision without the visionary.

Sons settle down in the church because of the set man and his vision.

This is a Ruth – Naomi covenant.

Mephibosheth sat at David's table.

John 1:36-39

36 And looking at Jesus as He walked, he said, "Behold the Lamb of God!"
37 The two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus.
38 Then Jesus turned, and seeing them following, said to them, "What do you seek?" They said to Him, "Rabbi" (which is to say, when translated, Teacher), "where are You staying?"
39 He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where He was staying, and remained with Him that day (now it was about the tenth hour). (NKJ)

3. RECOGNISE THAT THE OLD PLACE IS TOO SMALL

the place where we dwell with you is too small for us.

This is a mark of maturity. The bed becomes too small.

Sons recognise that the old place is too small. They outgrow manifestations, gift-centredness, traditions etc. A father does not have to tell the son that he has outgrown the old place.

Isa 49:19-23

19 "For your waste and desolate places, and the land of your destruction, will even now be too small for the inhabitants; and those who swallowed you up will be far away.
20 The children you will have, after you have lost the others, will say again in your ears, 'The place is too small for me; give me a place where I may dwell.'
21 Then you will say in your heart, 'Who has begotten these for me, since I have lost my children and am desolate, a captive, and wandering to and fro? And who has brought these up? There I was, left alone; but these, where were they?'"
22 Thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, I will lift My hand in an oath to the nations, and set up My standard for the peoples; they shall bring your sons in their arms, and your daughters shall be carried on their shoulders;

23 *Kings shall be your foster fathers, and their queens your nursing mothers; they shall bow down to you with their faces to the earth, and lick up the dust of your feet. Then you will know that I am the LORD, for they shall not be ashamed who wait for Me.*"
(NKJ)

4. SONS OUTGROW THE OLD PLACE, BUT NOT THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SET MAN.

Your father is your father for life.
David did not become irrelevant in his old age.

5. SONS DEMAND TEAM MINISTRY

2 *"Please, let us go to the Jordan, and let every man take a beam from there, and let us make there a place where we may dwell." So he answered, "Go."*

Check the benefits of team ministry.
Peter said to the lame man at Beautiful, look on US.

6. SONS RECOGNISE THAT TO BUILD A BIGGER PLACE YOU NEED TO GO TO JORDAN.

Jordan is a picture of the Word.
To build a bigger house you need to get closer to the Word.

REVISE WHY JORDAN IS A PICTURE OF THE WORD OF GOD.

7. SONS RECOGNISE THAT THEY ARE SERVANTS.

Please consent to go with your servants
All sons are servants, but not all servants are sons.
Elisha served Elijah.
Jesus served.(John 13)

REVISE THE QUALITIES OF AN EXCELLENT SERVANT

8. SONS INVOLVE THE SET MAN.

Sons consult with the set man.
The call of God is never in isolation. Father involves the son, sons involve the father.
It is the prodigal that wants to venture alone.
Don't go to missions without involving the set man.

9. SONS RECOGNISE THAT YOU CANNOT BUILD WITHOUT THE AXEHEAD

the iron ax head fell into the water

The axehead is a picture of the anointing. Sons recognise that they need the anointing to build.

REVISE THE PURPOSE OF THE ANOINTING.
(ANOINTING FOR SALVATION AND ANOINTING TO BUILD)

10. SONS RECOGNISE THAT THE AXEHEAD(ANOINTING) IS BORROWED.

Alas, master! For it was borrowed

The anointing to build is borrowed from the set man. See Numbers 11. Maturity alone is not going to equip you to build. You need the anointing.

Cannot build with a stick.

11. SONS RECOGNISE A MASTER IN THEIR LIVES

Sons know that there is a father or mentor in their lives.

12. SONS KNOW ABOUT PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

Pick it up for yourself

Sons recognise personal responsibility in the building project. The father cannot do everything

13. SONS FINISH THE WORK

We are not told whether the building was completed. If there are sons the job is going to be finished.