

Lesson 2
2 Kings 2:19-25

BAD WATER, BAD BOYS

The Deadly Water at Jericho (2 Kings 2:19-22)

12. According to Joshua 6:26, what did Joshua do in the aftermath of the conquest of Jericho? According to 1 Kings 16:34, what did Hiel do at Jericho during the wicked reign of Ahab? What happened to Hiel's sons and why? Where was Hiel from?

13. Why had the source of water at Jericho gone bad? How serious was the situation for the city's inhabitants?

14. Read the account of the miracle at Marah recorded in Exodus 15:22-25a. How is this account similar to that of the healing of the water at Jericho? How is it different? What do both stories teach us about God's will for His people?

The Mockers at Bethel (2 Kings 2:23-25)

15. Many people find the story recorded in 2 Kings 2:23-25 to be cruel and disturbing? Are you troubled by this text? Explain your answer.

16. Read 1 Kings 12:26-30. How did Jeroboam's actions at Bethel mock God? How was the work that Hiel did at Jericho another instance of mocking God (see 1 Kings 16:34 and question 12 above)? Given these two examples, how might several decades of continuous idol worship at Bethel have molded the youths who taunted Elisha?

17. What does 2 Chronicles 36:15-16 say about mocking God's prophets? What does Galatians 6:7-8a say about mocking God? What is the difference between mocking God's prophets and God Himself?

Where is Jesus?

18. Two important interpretive principles to keep in mind throughout our study of the life and ministry of Elisha is that miracles in the Bible (1) are *restorative*, that is, they correct something that has gone wrong because of sin and its consequences; and (2) are *eschatological*, that is, they look forward to the future when Christ will return to make all things new. How was the miracle of the healing of the water at Jericho restorative? How was it eschatological?

19. What was responsible for healing the water? Why did Elisha use a new bowl and salt in the healing? How does the healing of the water suggest something sacramental?

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