

Death in the Pot

Introduction

2 Kings 4:40 Then they served it to the men to eat. Now it happened, as they were eating the stew, that they cried out and said, "Man of God, there is death in the pot!" And they could not eat it.

- 1. Relate the story of the Text.**
- 2. This story pictures the power of poisonous influence.**
- 3. It suggests a lesson for our day. Therefore, let us consider:**

The Facts of the Story

- 1. There was a famine in the land.**
 - A. A famine often brings about rash conduct.**

Jeremiah 19:9 And I will cause them to eat the flesh of their sons and the flesh of their daughters, and everyone shall eat the flesh of his friend in the siege and in the desperation with which their enemies and those who seek their lives shall drive them to despair."

- 2. The hungry sons of prophets put a pot on the fire.**
- 3. Vegetables were gathered, but also gathered were some poison gourds.**

2 Kings 4:39 So one went out into the field to gather herbs, and found a wild vine, and gathered from it a lapful of wild gourds, and came and sliced them into the pot of stew, though they did not know what they were.

- 4. Elisha neutralized the poison by adding meal.**

2 Kings 4:41 So he said, "Then bring some flour." And he put it into the pot, and said, "Serve it to the people, that they may eat." And there was nothing harmful in the pot.

Practical Lessons Drawn from the Story

- 1. All herbs were good except one - the wild gourds.**
- 2. These gourds poisoned all!**
- 3. A little leaven leavens the whole lump.**

1 Corinthians 5:6 Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?

- A. This is shown to be true in the leaven of the Pharisees.
Matthew 15:7-14**
- B. This is shown to be true in evil associations.**

1 Corinthians 15:33 Do not be deceived: "Evil company corrupts good habits."

- 4. The poison remains until some neutralizing influence comes into play.**

Some Poison Gourds of Today

- 1. Bad reading literature.**
 - A. Parents have a responsibility toward their children in this matter - and to themselves.**
 - B. Much of the "trash" on the News Stands will aid in destruction of our children.**
 - 1) It is a fact that some books need to be burned.**

Acts 19:19 Also, many of those who had practiced magic brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted up the value of them, and it totaled fifty thousand pieces of silver.

2. Social poison.

A. Social drinking.

1 Thessalonians 5:21-22 Test all things; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil.

Isaiah 5:11 Woe to those who rise early in the morning, That they may follow intoxicating drink; Who continue until night, till wine inflames them!

Isaiah 5:22 Woe to men mighty at drinking wine, Woe to men valiant for mixing intoxicating drink,

Proverbs 23:29-30 Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has contentions? Who has complaints? Who has wounds without cause? Who has redness of eyes? Those who linger long at the wine, Those who go in search of mixed wine.

B. Evil movies, with bed-room scenes, cussing, and terrible violence.

1 Timothy 4:12-16

1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

Philippians 4:8 Meditate on These Things Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy — meditate on these things.

C. The modern dance.

Galatians 5:19-21

1 Corinthians 15:33 Do not be deceived: "Evil company corrupts good habits."

1 Thessalonians 5:21-22 Test all things; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil.

D. We should consider these influences as "wild gourds" which will bring about spiritual death to our boys and girls. Let's ensure that we are teaching them in the ways of God.

3. Religious poison:

A. Some have changed the truth into a lie.

Romans 1:24-25 Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever.

B. While it will be admitted that denominationalism has some truth, it must also be stated that it has many "wild gourds" -much poison.

C. Some obvious examples of the poison characteristic of denominationalism include:

1) The universalist's theory that all will be saved.

Hebrews 5:9 And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him,

2) The general denominational concept that one does not have to be baptized to be saved.

Romans 6:3-5

Acts 2:38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

3) The theory that church membership is non-essential.

Ephesians 1:22-23 And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

Ephesians 5:23 For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.

D. The "can't fall" theory.

Galatians 5:4 You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.

Romans 11:22 Therefore consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in His goodness. Otherwise you also will be cut off.

1 Corinthians 10:12 Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.

E. NOTE: This poison must be purged by the gospel.

Romans 1:16 The Just Live by Faith For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. for in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."

4. Religious poison in the church.

A. Hypocrites.

1 Peter 2:1-2 Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby,

B. Disinterest OR indifference. Hebrews 5:12-14

Romans 12:11 not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord;

Revelation 3:16 So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.

C. Worldliness. 1 John 2:15-17

Romans 12:1-2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

