

Date: 25 August 2019

Speaker: Rev Clement Chew

Topic: Prophets of Fire and Water: Mocking the Messenger

Scripture text: 2 Kings 2:19-25

1. Elisha was a messenger of the LORD and his message was good and necessary for the people in Jericho. Jericho was a habitable place to live in but the water was not safe for consumption and farming, leading to barren ground. Acting on the pleas of the men of Jericho, Elisha healed the spring by casting salt into the waters. The purpose of this miracle was to point the people to the power of God working through Elisha.

2. Elisha's calling was to bring the Word of the LORD to the people to cleanse them spiritually, to rebuke them of their sins and to restore them to holiness. Messengers of God must present the whole counsel of God without the fear of men. When we hear God's Word through His messengers, let us be ready to receive with humility and pray for His Word to bear forth fruit of sanctification for His glory.

3. Even though Elisha was a faithful messenger of the LORD, the people still rejected his message due to the hardness of their hearts. Forty men in their youth scorned Elisha for his baldness and chased him away from their city Bethel. Elisha was vindicated when they were eventually judged by the LORD for mocking His messenger and were killed by two bears. When we mock God's messenger, we are actually mocking God Himself because the messenger is God's instrument to deliver His Word.

4. May we have the highest reverence for God's Word, submit to the teachings of faithful messengers and be faithful messengers ourselves to share the Gospel.