

There Is Death In The Pot

I. Poison Guards Teach Two Lessons.

1. Danger Of Deceiving B Appearance.
 - A. Religion, Error. **Heb. 5:14.**
 - B. Truth. **John 8:32:17:17.**
 - C. Preachers. **2 Cor. 11:13-15.**
 - D. Churches.
 - E. People.
2. Good Intentions May Lead To Mistakes.
 - A. Not Prevent Natural Course.
 - B. Sincerity Will Not Change Results.
Uzzah - 2 Sam. 6:6.
 - C. Cannot Plead Ignorance.
Paul. **Gal. 1:13:1 Jim. 1:13.**
Ephesus. Rev. 2:4.
 - D. Intentions Not Enough.
Felix - Acts 24:25.



II. The Timely Discovery.

1. One Poison Ingredient Destroys Much.
2. One Error Destroys Much Truth.
3. Resolve: Partake No More.
4. Many Won't Take Warning;
morals, health, Religion.

III. Death We Put In Pot.

1. The Good.
2. The Bad. **1 Cor. 5:7.**
3. The Results.

IV. Bring The Meal.

1. Evil Can Be Cured.
2. The Meal, God's Word.
2 Kings 4:38-41.

THERE IS DEATH IN THE POT

2 Kings 4:38-41

INTRO: Elisha is now visiting a college for the sons of prophets, a school for training young men to preach and teach God's Word. Elisha, being a great prophet and teacher, was instructing these young men at the school of Gilgal.

There was a famine in the land. The results could be seen in the young men; they were hungry. There was a famine of material food, but not spiritual food. Regardless of the hardship, the school continued. There was real fellowship; they had a common table.

Trials and hardship had drawn them closer together.

Elisha ordered his servant to boil a great pot of pottage so the young prophets could eat. One young man went out into the field to gather herbs. He found a vine that had wild gourds on it. He did not know that they were poison. He gathered a lap full and brought them and shredded them into the pot of pottage. We are told that these gourds were probably from a plant called the squirting cucumber; its appearance is very much like a gourd that is edible. When the pottage had cooked, they all began to eat, but as they started eating, "They cried out, and said, O man of God, there is death in the pot."

The effects of the poisonous pottage were noticed almost as soon as they started eating. It could have been the taste, or the sickness, or horrible burning and dizziness as a result of the poison. Elisha called for meal and cast it into the pot. He told them to eat; now there was not harm in the pot. By a miracle, the pottage was made edible. We today can learn a number of lessons from this incident.

I. POISON GOURDS TEACH US TWO LESSONS.

- A. There Is the Danger of Being Deceived by Appearance. Things may not always be as they appear. The gourds appeared to be good.
 1. Even in religion, error may appear to be truth. As a result, many honest people are deceived. We must be careful. We need to have our senses exercised to discern both good and evil. Heb. 5:14; James 1:27.
 2. The truth, the true vine, has many counterfeits. It is compared to wild vines. The gourds that nourish and satisfy have many imitations that bring only poisonous results. John 8:32, 17:17.
 3. Preachers may appear to be ministers of God, yet because they do not preach all the truth, they are ministers of the devil. 2 Cor. 11:13-15.
 4. Churches may appear to be the true church of Jesus Christ, but just because they have the name printed above the door does not mean they are the New Testament Church.
 5. People may appear to be sincere children of God, but how do they live? Do they attend services? Do they work for Christ? Do they sacrifice for God? Or, do they just appear to be Christians?
- B. Good Intentions May Lead to Bad Mistakes.

1. Regardless of how good our intentions, they will not prevent the natural course of events. The young man thought the gourds were harmless, yet they were poisonous and produced the horrible effects. Sincerity did not change the results.
2. Sincerity does not keep us from the consequences of our actions. Regardless of how sincere we may be, it will not change the end results. Men were not to touch the Ark of God. They were to move it on long rods carried on the shoulders of the sons of Kohath. However, against God's way, they made a cart and were pulling it with oxen. When the oxen stumbled at the trashing floor of Nacon, Uzzah put forth his hand to steady the Ark. God smote Uzzah, and he died. No doubt he was sincere. 2 Sam. 6:6.
3. We cannot plead ignorance. Results will still follow. Paul sincerely, in ignorance, persecuted the church. It still was the opposite of what God wanted. Gal. 1:13; 1 Tim. 1:13; Rev. 2:4. Though ignorant that it was taking place, the church at Ephesus left its first love.
4. Good intentions are not enough. We must do what God commands. Felix intended to become a Christian, but he put it off and we have no proof that he ever did. Acts 24:25.

II. THE TIMELY DISCOVERY.

The prophets found the condition almost at once.

- A. One poisonous ingredient, the gourds, destroyed the value of much good food. Not all elements put in were poison; just one was enough to contaminate the whole pot. 1 Cor. 5:6.
- B. One vital error blended with much truth can destroy its power for good. The gospel can be adulterated with doctrines, creeds, and opinions of men, and thereby bring spiritual death as a result. Matt. 15:9.
- C. After discovering the poison, the prophets resolved to partake no more of the poisoned dish. Many today are not so wise; when warned of "Death in the Pot," they go on eating. This is also true in things moral.
- D. We have been warned of death in the pot of moral breakdown, still we continue: divorce, crime, sex outside of marriage, homosexuals life-style. It is also true in matters of health: smoking, taxes, drinking, drugs. It is also true in religion. When we are warned of false teaching, we still continue to eat. Men will not give up error.

III. DEATH WE HAVE PUT IN THE POT.

- A. The Good. Mission work, meetings, young preachers, etc.
- B. The Bad. No fellowship among ourselves and other congregations, no training of new converts, no personal work, no visitation of sick and those in hospitals, etc.
- C. Results: The poison will have its effect: lost zeal, failure to grow, live, work, etc. 1 Cor. 5:7.

IV. BRING THE MEAL.

- A. The evil can be cured. We have found it in time.
 - B. The meal, the Word of God, can purify. We must learn it and obey it. We must put it first in everything.
- CONCL: We must exercise great care to detect those things that poison our spiritual lives so we can add the antidote, the meal of the Word of God.