

# Insta-Fam: The Progression of Temptation

2 Kings 5:19-27

## 1. We **justify our right** to get what we want.

📖 2 Kings 5:19–20 (NIV) “Go in peace,” Elisha said. After Naaman had traveled some distance, <sup>20</sup> Gehazi, the servant of Elisha the man of God, said to himself, “My master was too easy on Naaman, this Aramean, by not accepting from him what he brought. As surely as the Lord lives, I will run after him and get something from him.”

📖 James 1:14-15 (NIV) “...each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. <sup>15</sup> Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.”

📖 2 Corinthians 10:5 (NIV) “...we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.”

📖 2 Kings 5:16 (NIV) “The prophet answered, “**As surely as the Lord lives, whom I serve, I will not accept a thing.**” And even though Naaman urged him, he refused.”

📖 2 Kings 5:20b (NIV) “Gehazi, the servant of Elisha the man of God, said to himself, “...**As surely as the Lord lives, I will run after him and get something from him.**”

## 2. We **craft a story** to get what we want.

📖 2 Kings 5:21–22 (NIV) “So Gehazi hurried after Naaman. When Naaman saw him running toward him, he got down from the chariot to meet him. “Is everything all right?” he asked. <sup>22</sup> “Everything is all right,” Gehazi answered. “My master sent me to say, ‘Two young men from the company of the prophets have just come to me from the hill country of Ephraim. Please give them a talent of silver and two sets of clothing.’”

### How to Spot a Con

1. They will **lie about who sent them.**

2. They will **have a detailed story.**

3. They will **ask for a lot, but not too much.**

📖 2 Kings 5:23 (NIV) “By all means, take two talents,” said Naaman. He urged Gehazi to accept them, and then tied up the two talents of silver in two bags, with two sets of clothing. He gave them to two of his servants, and they carried them ahead of Gehazi.”

## 3. We **hide the evidence** after getting what we wanted.

📖 2 Kings 5:24 (NIV) “When Gehazi came to the hill, he took the things from the servants and put them away in the house. He sent the men away and they left.”

## 4. We **lie when confronted** after getting what we wanted.

📖 2 Kings 5:25 (NIV) “Then he went in and stood before his master Elisha. “Where have you been, Gehazi?” Elisha asked. “Your servant didn’t go anywhere,” Gehazi answered.”

📖 2 Kings 5:26a (NIV) “But Elisha said to him, “Was not my spirit with you when the man got down from his chariot to meet you? Is this the time to take money, or to accept clothes...?”

📖 Hebrews 4:13 (NIV) “Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.”

## 5. We **learn the cost isn’t worth** getting what we wanted.

📖 2 Kings 5:27 (NIV) “Naaman’s leprosy will cling to you and to your descendants forever.” Then Gehazi went from Elisha’s presence and he was leprous, as white as snow.”

**Digging Deeper:** When are you most susceptible to temptation? Can you trace the progression of temptation in your life? What have you done that you wish you didn’t do? Why is it so easy to justify wrong behavior? What is God warning you about today? What should you turn away from before it is too late? What do you need to ask forgiveness for?

