

The Other Ethiopian Eunuch

Introduction. In the dark days prior to Jerusalem's destruction, when the people had rejected God and His word, a foreigner chose to trust in God (Jeremiah 38:7-13; 39:15-18). Ebedmelech means "servant (slave) of the king (royal one)." Like the more familiar Ethiopian eunuch of Acts 8, this eunuch was a man of character, faith, determination and action.

God saw his faith and rewarded him with deliverance in the day Jerusalem was destroyed for her sins. In a like manner, Christians are bondservants of Christ and righteousness (1 Corinthians 7:22-23; Romans 6:17-18). We can learn much from this man who exhibited so many wonderful characteristics in his treatment of God's servant.

I. ***Ebedmelech Had Moral Courage***

A. Consider his courage.

1. He had courage to stand against the enemies of truth (Jeremiah 38:1-4).
2. He had courage to go before the king (Jeremiah 38:8).
3. He had courage in spite of the possible consequences (Jeremiah 38:18-19).

B. God calls us to courage.

1. Christians must reject the temptation to compromise, and be willing to endure conflict and stand for truth (Matthew 10:16-18; 2 Peter 1:5; 1 Corinthians 16:13; Philippians 1:27-30).
2. It may be difficult to stand against friends or even parents when upholding the truth, but it must be done. Revelation 21:8 states that the cowardly will suffer the same fate as all the other ungodly.

II. ***Ebedmelech Put His Faith Into Practice***

A. He believed the truth when others opposed it (Jeremiah 38:7-10). Jesus came on this earth so that people would love truth more than relationships (Matthew 10:34-39).

B. Like Ebedmelech, our faith must be active or obedient in order to be genuine (Ephesians 2:8-10; Hebrews 10:36-39; James 2:14-17).

C. He showed compassion to Jeremiah by saving his life (Jeremiah 38:11-13). Christians can show the same compassion by saving souls from spiritual death (Jude 22-23; 2 Timothy 2:25-26) and by kind and hospitable ministering to all men (Galatians 6:10; James 1:27; 1 John 3:17-18).

III. ***Ebedmelech Was Remembered And Rewarded By God***

A. God sees and is faithful to deliver those who trust in Him (Jeremiah 39:15-18). God still knows those who are His (2 Timothy 2:19; Micah

7:7; Hebrews 6:9-10).

B. In the midst of God's judgment and destruction of evil, He will save those who are righteous (Revelation 2:10; 2 Peter 3:10-13).

Conclusion. No one is a foreigner to God who will obey Him and abstain from evil (Isaiah 56:1-5). In fact, that person will be blessed! We need courage to live by faith, being assured that God will remember us and give us His eternal reward.