



Outer Growth - Situations

And the men of the city said unto Elisha, Behold, I pray thee, the situation of this city is pleasant, as my lord seeth: but the water is naught, and the ground barren.

2 Kings 2:19

Setting - Matthew 27:66

Intimidate - 2 Corinthians 5:17

Time - Mark 13:33, 1 Peter 5:6

Understanding - Matthew 15:16, Proverbs 3:5

Attitude - Philippians 2:14

Tongue - Matthew 26:41

Information - Jeremiah 17:23, 35:13

Opposition - Ephesians 6:12

News - Ezekiel 21:7, Acts 13:32

What is a situation? It is a personal encounter of activity or a combination of circumstances. Life is about situations; without them, how would a person live? People either experience good situations or not: All encounter them unexpectedly. However, each situation calls for an immediate or some form of solution. People encounter many situations at different levels daily. However, the several notable but different situations exist: awkward situations, sticky situations, tricky situations, tight situations, and happy or unhappy situations. Still, these situations come down to whether they are good or bad. The theme verse in *Second Kings two*, verse nineteen, under **the beginning of Elisha's ministry**, "And the men of the city said unto Elisha, Behold, I pray thee, the situation of this city is pleasant, as my lord seeth: but the water is naught, and the ground barren. And he said, Bring me a new cruse, and put salt

therein. And they brought it to him. And he went forth unto the spring of the waters, cast the salt in there, and said, Thus saith the LORD, I have healed these waters; there shall not be any more death or barren land."

A situation can change at any given moment. It will either be better or worse, under command or out of control. No one can predict the result will be or will remain the same. The main goal for everyone involved is to have a resolution. To overcome whatever obstacle is causing the situation to be in the state it is in now.

Each situation has a setting: positive or negative, pleasant or unpleasant, small or big. The first response to this situation is the setting that will tempt us to determine our next move. These questions may come up: Who do we go to for help? Where do we go? What should we do? When do we go? And why is this happening?

At the beginning of Elisha's ministry, the setting for this situation was the city with no water and the barren land. The water is naught, which means zero, as in none.

Meanwhile, the barren land had no crops.

Elisha

*knows the matter and is in a close relationship with God. He summons the men to bring a new cruse and put salt in it, as in verse twenty of *Second Kings two*.*

A situation can be intimidating. The severity of it can pressure us to be timid instead of courageous. For believers, "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind," as in *First Timothy one*, verse seven. God wants His people to remember that He is with us, as in *Isaiah forty-one*, verse ten. "Fear thou not; for I *am* with thee: be not dismayed; for I *am* thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness."

*At the beginning of Elisha's ministry, the intimidation he had to overcome is in *Second Kings two*, verse twenty, "And he said, Bring me a new cruse and put salt therein. And they brought it to him." After the request was granted, he still had to perform the task. The very next verse in *twenty-one*, "And he went forth." Elisha followed through in faith, believing that God would do the rest.*

Sometimes, a situation will take some time. Not all circumstances, such as the bad ones, will be resolved overnight. However, in some instances, it may take days, months, and even years. Still, the good ones we experience, we would like it to last as long as possible. For believers, whatever situation we face, God should be involved.

At the beginning of Elisha's ministry, the start of verse twenty-one, "And he went forth unto the spring of the waters and cast the salt in there." There was no time taken or hesitation. Elisha was on a mission to fulfill what God set him out to do: save lives. The men from the city came to him about the problem: with the lack of water and the land barren. Elisha told them what was needed. When he received the items, he went to take care of the matter.

A situation may get out of hand because the individuals involved lack understanding. The difference between a circumstance under or out of control is God in the midst. The Son of God addresses Peter in Matthew fifteen, verse sixteen. "And Jesus said, Are ye also yet without understanding?" Like Peter, sometimes the solution is right before us, and we cannot even recognize it. Sometimes, our hearts and minds are so much on it that we cannot even think straight.

However, believers may notice things on the surface physically but not spiritually. Sometimes, not taking a step back and reviewing what is happening prevents resolution. Specifically, when believers do not pray, ask God to clarify the matter and give direction to resolving it.

At the beginning of Elisha's ministry, he understood his purpose after receiving a request in Second Kings two, verse nine. The experience of seeing Elijah being taken up to heaven, he knew God would be there for him as He was with His ascending servant. Elisha understood the situation with the men in the city after they told him the problem because God was with him and gave the men an immediate solution with his request of the new cruse and put the salt in it.

Situations can be more severe than ordinary because of a wrong display of behavior. Not everyone likes challenging conditions, especially involving winning or losing. A bad

situation will tempt a person to be in a bad mood. However, for believers, the approach should be different. Jesus Christ often encounters challenges in situations against the scribes and Pharisees: His approach was the Word of God for them to overcome.

In Matthew twelve, verses twenty-two through twenty-seven, under the slander of the Pharisees, they brought a person possessed by a devil and blind and dumb, and Jesus healed him, which he spoke and saw. The public response in verse twenty-three, "And all the people were amazed, and said, Is not this the son of David?" They recognized who Jesus was and the family He came from, trying to discredit the healing done through Him by God. The Pharisees' response, "But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, This fellow doth not cast out devils but by Beelzebub, the prince of the devils.

The Pharisees in the Bible were members of a religious group. They are to be examples of the godly who did not recognize the Son of God and addressed Him as a fellow.

Meanwhile, the public labeled Jesus as a family member of someone they knew. The situation here by both parties was a reaction and plot to tempt the Son of God to have an attitude toward the people and the Pharisees. However, at the beginning of verse twenty-five, "And Jesus knew their thoughts and said unto them," which means He spoke the Word only. The motive of the enemy was to get Jesus in some form of confrontation with either or both the public people and the Pharisees right after the miracle healing for the once devil-possessed man. However, Jesus knew their thoughts and did not allow them to interfere with the will of the Father. Yes, the people were amazed that the man was healed, but they still did not want to acknowledge the Holy One, so both the public people and Pharisees who witnessed the miracle tried to get Jesus to behave at their level, but they failed to do so. Today, this is the plan of the enemy, which is to catch believers off guard in situations that will tempt them to act in an ungodly manner to stop the will of God from operating in their lives. After all, God's will is to work through us to save others around us. Situations can get out of control if we do not keep the tongue under restraint. Today, many

people, including believers, encounter excess or unnecessary problems because of their verbal activity. James three, verse eight, "But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison." Many get into undesirable matters due to a lack of control over their feelings or emotions and allow their tongue to get the best of them, or yet, the worst of them. James three, verse six, "And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell."

Believers also must not allow the enemy to tempt them to say things that did not happen, even though they feel something. Even if a person feels sick, they should not admit to it because when you do, eventually, it will occur due to confession with the tongue. Even though it does happen, we deal with it by trusting God because it is like adding fuel to the fire. The devil is an accuser, as in the bottom part of Revelation twelve, verse ten, "...for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night." The devil will confront us based on what we say when we utter negative things against ourselves, even if we do not mean it. Situations can pressure people to find an immediate answer. However, it may not be the right one. Most situations call for information. Get instruction from the right source to resolve the matter. Still, the information given to help is temporary, like a bandaid to heal the wound or a permanent solution to end the situation in a positive one.

Abraham and Sarah could not have children. However, before having these names, they were Abram and Sarai. At the beginning of Genesis sixteen, verse one, "Now Sarai Abram's wife bare him no children." However, from verses two through four, Sarai gives Abram an immediate solution by suggesting her husband take her handmaid, Hagar, to bare children. Still, it was an instruction given by Abram's wife but not by God. However, Abram had a son from Hagar called Ishmael.

The situation for Abraham and Sarah changes suddenly in Genesis seventeen, verse sixteen, "And I will bless her, and give thee a son also of her: yea, I will bless her, and she shall be a

mother of nations; kings of people shall be of her." God will bless Sarai with a child even at the age of ninety. In Genesis seventeen, verse eight, "Abraham cries out Ishmael's name in verse eighteen, "O that Ishmael might live before thee!" The situation becomes a bit complex. Abraham and Sarah did not expect to have a child at this stage of their life, and now they will while Abraham wonders about Ishmael because he did not see this coming. The situation can be opposing. Sometimes, people get involved unexpectedly, making it more complicated than it is. David was about to face Goliath, the giant. "And David girded his sword upon his armor, and he assayed to go he had not proved *it*. And David said unto Saul, I cannot go with these; for I have not proved *them*. And David put them off him." A giant was waiting to challenge the Israelites, and the people helping David did not have the size armor for him to wear.

Believers must understand that sometimes situations may be abnormal because being a part of the family of God and dealing with those who are not will cause these experiences to be more than what we expect. However, those who trust in God should not be discouraged but depend on Him to resolve the matter. Still, believers should address God in every situation and ask Him for help. Despite the people we encounter and places we go, they will not all be godly environments and godly people.

Situations can be like news. Some are public, while some are private: well-known or unknown. There will be nosy people who may monitor your business, as in First Timothy five, verse thirteen, "And withal they learn *to be* idle, wandering about from house to house; and not only idle but tattlers also and busybodies, speaking things which they ought not."

Situations with an audience may be more intense. However, believers should address all matters to God for guidance and counseling. Unfortunately, society has nosy people who love to get involved in other people's business. Nevertheless, when dealing with our situations, we also have to deal with them because they love new news and are news carriers, creating unnecessary drama. However, with us being the focus of attention

in our situation, we have to be careful not to let them carry us overboard and retaliate in a way we may regret.

For believers, "Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath, says James one, verse nineteen." The devil will use these people to tempt us to take out our frustration due to the situation we are in. Therefore, believers should ask God for help and use the Word to soothe our minds and thoughts. The old saying, "Don't worry about anything, but pray about everything," is true. Today, people are using and doing all sorts of things to resolve their situations. However, God is still the only one who can change them without us doing ungodly acts or rituals. All we have to do is trust Him.

Situations are life. What kinds of situations, and how good or bad they are, may determine how we and our family live? However, in some situations, we don't have a say, and are beyond our control. Dealing with situations is not as easy as some may look. Many will have twists and turns, might get sticky or tricky, a bit awkward, and make us feel happy or unhappy. One of the people on staff with Inner Outer Growth is facing a situation that is a true story. The child is attending college and has to pay tuition and semester fees with the total amount due, and they have two weeks to pay. During this time, the family was getting their house done and was supposed to receive some extra funds to pay and cover the amount owed for the program. However, the expectancy of this house process should be done in a couple of days, as confirmed by the administration office, and the staff was aware of the college matter. The situation seems normal because the timeline between the house papers and the payment due for college fees should not be a problem, right?

Fast-forward to the due date for paying college fees. Surprisingly, the house papers were not done, which the administration found unusual, and the location of documents was undetermined and in queue order with other files of other applicants in another institution. The parents called the school for an extension and were told to pay in full, while the other relative contacted them and got a different answer. The parents wanted to go down to the

office to see the staff to explain the reason and get cooperation because phone calls were not getting through to the office after speaking to them twice. However, the child was told only students with a student number could attend the college office on campus. The house agent sent an inquiry to the office where the documents are located, but there was no response.

During this time, the child has exams and cannot study because of this problem. The parents feel bad because not managing their child's fees properly makes it more embarrassing. They're praying to God, trusting, and taking action to get matters under control. Why do we share this example? To show all readers, believers, and others that we are no different than anyone else who lives life and goes through real-life experiences. No matter how things look at the moment, God is able.