

A Young Girl from Israel

“Now Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Syria, was a great and honorable man in the eyes of his master because by him the lord had given victory to Syria. He was also a mighty man of valor, but a leper.” (2 Kings 5:1). Few men in the Bible are described in such good terms. He had power, prestige, fame and apparently wealth. Yet he was condemned to die a terrible death.

In studying this passage, a young girl from Israel is mentioned. “And the Syrians had gone out on raid and had brought back captive a young girl from the land of Israel. She waited on Naaman’s wife. Then she said to her mistress, “If only my master were with the prophet who is in Samaria! For he would heal him of his leprosy.”” (2 Kings 5:2-3). We can all learn a lesson from this young servant of God.

She used her opportunity wisely. Most people want an ideal time to talk about God. We want the right person and the circumstances. This young lady was a slave but this did not hinder her from speaking out about the prophet of God. “Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.” (Galatians 6:10). Opportunities do not come conveniently timed or packaged.

She offered hope to the enemy. This girl had been captured and taken away from her home. She was now a slave to the General of the Army responsible for the situation. What did she do? She told him about the prophet of God. She could have remained quiet and allowed Naaman to receive what he deserved but she was better than that. Jesus spoke of helping and loving our enemies, “love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you.” (Matthew 5:44). Jesus did not say loving an enemy is easy but He commands us to do so. Through our love, we show our obedience to God and God’s love toward us. Love is not pure emotion it is an act of the will. We must make up our mind to love those around us. We must tell them what they need to hear and act toward their best interest.

This girl spoke with conviction and full assurance. She did not say there is a prophet of God who may be able to help Naaman. She said this prophet of God **would heal** him of his leprosy.” (2 Kings 5:3b). She understood that God could take care of something so minor as a human disease. We need to have the same conviction and

faith in God today. To be convicted, we must know what to have faith in. "So then faith come by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." (Romans 10: 17). To have faith we must live according to what the Bible directs. Hebrews 11 speaks of Abel, Noah, Abraham and a host of others. A common phrase is "By faith". By faith Noah did what God instructed. By faith Abel offered a more excellent sacrifice. By faith Abraham left his home country and wandered in the wilderness. We must be willing to live "by faith".

We will never know the name of the young Israelite girl, yet God recorded her words for us to read. Are you taking advantage of your opportunities to teach others about God? Do you love your enemies and others around you? Are you convicted enough to live by faith? - - Dennis Tucker