

Naaman's Healing - June 14, 2023

Trusting God is tough. His ways aren't our ways. We like to be in charge. We think we have it figured out, but we don't see the big picture.

2 Kings 5:1 - NIV – *“Now Naaman was commander of the army of the king of Aram. He was a great man in the sight of his master and highly regarded, because through him the Lord had given victory to Aram. He was a valiant soldier, but he had leprosy.”*

- Naaman - man of position, prestige; he's popular & respected. . . but he was a leper. We all have some battle to fight. Nobody has perfect life.
- Leprosy. 2 types: tuberculoid and lepromatous.
 - o Leper: the “living dead.” w/o God, we're also living dead.
- Aram in present day Syria, N of Israel. Israel – a light to shine, Syria – a place of idolatry & darkness.
 - o God is still reaching out to people in darkness. He isn't done. His desire is for all to know Him & acknowledge: we need a Savior!

2 Kings 5:2-3 - NIV – *“Now bands of raiders from Aram had gone out and had taken captive a young girl from Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. 3 She said to her mistress, “If only my master would see the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy.”*

- This whole story begins with a young girl – abducted, slave.
- She's small, insignificant to men, but she knows God & His prophet.
 - o **God uses small people to do big things all the time**
- Her **circumstances haven't defined** her or control her heart.
 - o She isn't bitter; she's making things better around her.
 - o She knew where healing could be found & shared it. Witness.

2 Kings 5:4-7 NLT – *“Naaman went to the king & told him what the girl from Israel had said. The king of Aram said, “Go ahead, and I will send a letter to the king of Israel.” So Naaman left and took with him about 700 pounds of silver, as well as 150 pounds of gold and 10 changes of clothes. He brought the letter to the king of Israel, which read, “I am sending my servant Naaman*

to you so you can heal him of his skin disease.” 7 When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes to show how upset he was. He said, “I’m not God! I can’t kill and make alive again! Why does this man send someone with a skin disease for me to heal? You can see that the king of Aram is trying to start trouble with me.”

- **Contrast** the King of Israel w/ little girl. He thinks only of himself.
 - He’s paranoid & paralyzed with fear. Thinks the worst.
 - She saw every problem as an opportunity to be a witness for God.
- He’s king of Israel, but his life doesn’t show us God.
 - Who are we more like?

2 Kings 5:8 – NLT – *“When Elisha, the man of God, heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent the king this message: “Why have you torn your clothes? Let Naaman come to me. Then he will know there is a prophet in Israel.”*

- Hears the news and Elisha takes action. “I can help!”
 - Elisha could’ve let pride stop him. Why didn’t he think of me?
 - Our mission from God is more important than our ego.

2 Kings 5:9-12 NLT - *So Naaman went with his horses and chariots to Elisha’s house and stood outside the door. 10 Elisha sent Naaman a messenger who said, “Go and wash in the Jordan River seven times. Then your skin will be healed, and you will be clean.” 11 Naaman became angry and left. He said, “I thought Elisha would surely come out and stand before me and call on the name of the Lord his God. I thought he would wave his hand over the place and heal the disease. 12 The Abana and the Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, are better than all the waters of Israel. Why can’t I wash in them and become clean?” So Naaman went away very angry.*

- Naaman’s **pride** was hurt. He had this all **planned** out. God/plan.
 - We get angry at God too when His plan isn’t our plan. “I thought...”
- Elisha sends a messenger... rude? God still sends messengers . . . **us**.
 - Notice: Elisha doesn’t run after Naaman. Leaves it to God. . .
 - We’re messengers, not saviors. Do what u can, leave it... God will work thru others to get thru to Naaman.

2 Kings 5:13-14 - *Naaman's servants came near and said to him, "My father, if the prophet had told you to do some great thing, wouldn't you have done it? Doesn't it make more sense just to do it? After all, he only told you, 'Wash, and you will be clean.'" 14 So Naaman went down and dipped in the Jordan seven times, just as Elisha had said. Then his skin became new again, like the skin of a child. And he was clean.*

- Naaman had to get over his pride to be healed.
 - He's respected, powerful . . . yet battling powerless.
 - We'll always hit that wall. We need God. Some refuse.
- Enemy will use logic to lead u away... dip 7 x. Cleaner rivers.
 - He was willing to pay any price, but unwilling to do the simple.
 - Salvation is simple... but takes faith & trust. Not earned.
 - **Heb. 11:14** – *"And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him."*
- Naaman had to be willing to trust God, lose his pride, take a step...
 - Was it the washing that cured him? No – obedience to faith.
 - **Can we give up our preconceived ideas and trust God?**
 - **What blessings are we missing b/c we've refused to dip?**

Vs. 15 - *Naaman and all his group returned to Elisha. He stood before Elisha and said, "Look, I now know there is no God in all the earth except in Israel."*

- God used leprosy to bring Naaman to God.
 - Success - Great warrior – only gave him pride. Temp happiness. We need a Savior. A forever home... joy that lasts.
 - God **gets our attention** one way or the other. He uses our personal failures, problems, illness to bring us closer to Him.
- God wants us to trust in Him more than our own ideas.
 - Stop being in charge... stop running your own life.
 - God wants us to want the Healer more than the healing.

Song of the week – "More Than Anything" – Natalie Grant
Happy Father's Day, this Sunday. Monday – June 19th