

Naaman Gets Healed

God bless you in the name of Jesus Christ. As always, it is a tremendous blessing to be with you and to have the great privilege of sharing a bit of God's Word with you. Last weekend, as you know, was our annual Council of Clergy and Elders weekend. It was a fabulous time of fellowship and central to the whole weekend was the Word of God. There was a great emphasis on its accuracy and power. This morning, we will continue along those lines.

I would like to read an account with you – at least part of an account – from the Old Testament. The records in the Old Testament are written there for our learning and we can certainly learn a lot from reading them. This morning, we want to go to II Kings 5.

II Kings 5:1

In Israel and Judah, leprosy was not only a disease physically, but it affected you socially as well. A leper would be basically cut off from the rest of society. But that was not the case in the Gentile nations. It certainly was not the case in Syria. This man Naaman had a government position of great responsibility even though he was a leper.

II Kings 5:2, 3

Naaman and his wife must have treated their servants well. This little maid who had been taken captive out of Israel wanted the best for them. Additionally, she must have had a great respect for the prophet in Samaria, the capitol city of Israel.

II Kings 5:4 – 6

This report made it all the way up to the king of Syria and he took action on it. He writes a letter to the king of Israel and sends Naaman to the king of Israel with a great bounty of gifts. This was all very proper diplomatically speaking.

II Kings 5:7

The king of Israel (who is not a very nice man) is obviously distraught by these events. He suspects that the king of Syria is looking for an excuse to invade Israel.

II Kings 5:8, 9

When Elisha hears about this, he sends word to the king of Israel that there is no problem. The king should send Naaman on to Elisha. Elisha will take care of the problem and Naaman will learn that there is a prophet in Israel. So, Naaman heads over to Elisha.

II Kings 5:10

Elisha did not go out to greet Naaman himself. Rather, he sent a messenger with the information and instructions from God. And let's make this point right away: there is nothing special or magical about the Jordan River water. If there were, others would have been healed there. Jesus makes the point in Luke 4:27 that there were many lepers in Israel at this time and none of them received healing. The power was not in the water but in the words from God. But the words from God must be accepted with believing if anyone is going to profit from them.

Hebrews 4:2

In context, this verse in Hebrews is referring to Israel, specifically to the generation in the wilderness that did not enter the promised land. All

the promises of God are accessed by believing the words from God.
Back to II Kings.

II Kings 5:11, 12

The information and instructions from God (and the way they were delivered) did not line up with the preconceived ideas that Naaman had. But God's Word is God's Word. He does not try to adapt to what humans want or think. Humans must adapt to God's Word. Naaman had expected a big religious show and instead God (via Elisha) gave him something that, to Naaman, seemed ridiculous. But it is often that way with God.

He told Moses to stretch out his hands over the sea and the sea would part, allowing them to pass on dry ground.

He told Joshua to lead Israel around the city of Jericho once a day for six days and seven times on the last day and the walls of the city would fall down.

Jesus spit on the ground and rubbed the mud onto a blind man's eyes and told him to go wash in the pool of Siloam.

The information and instructions from God must be accepted with believing in order to get the profit.

So Naaman turned away in a rage. Notice that there is no response from Elisha. Why should there be? After all, Elisha does not have leprosy. Once you have been given the words from God, it is your responsibility to accept them "as is" with believing.

II Kings 5:13, 14

Naaman was blessed to have someone like this working for him. They had the concern for him and the boldness to speak up. And Naaman had the meekness and good sense to listen. Now, the record of Naaman continues, but this is as far as we are going to read this morning.

This is the record of a man who (with some help) got past his own ideas about what God and the prophet should do for him. He accepted the simple words from God, he acted upon them, and he received the promised blessing.