

2 Kings 5:1-14

The Common English Bible

¹ Naaman, a general for the king of Aram, was a great man and highly regarded by his master, because through him the Lord had given victory to Aram. This man was a mighty warrior, but he had a skin disease. ² Now Aramean raiding parties had gone out and captured a young girl from the land of Israel. She served Naaman's wife.

³ She said to her mistress, "I wish that my master could come before the prophet who lives in Samaria. He would cure him of his skin disease." ⁴ So Naaman went and told his master what the young girl from the land of Israel had said.

⁵ Then Aram's king said, "Go ahead. I will send a letter to Israel's king."

So Naaman left. He took along ten kikkars of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten changes of clothing. ⁶ He brought the letter to Israel's king. It read, "Along with this letter I'm sending you my servant Naaman so you can cure him of his skin disease."

⁷ When the king of Israel read the letter, he ripped his clothes. He said, "What? Am I God to hand out death and life? But this king writes me, asking me to cure someone of his skin disease! You must realize that he wants to start a fight with me."

⁸ When Elisha the man of God heard that Israel's king had ripped his clothes, he sent word to the king: "Why did you rip your clothes? Let the man come to me. Then he'll know that there's a prophet in Israel."

⁹ Naaman arrived with his horses and chariots. He stopped at the door of Elisha's house. ¹⁰ Elisha sent out a messenger who said, "Go and wash seven times in the Jordan River. Then your skin will be restored and become clean."

¹¹ But Naaman went away in anger. He said, "I thought for sure that he'd come out, stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, wave his hand over the bad spot, and cure the skin disease. ¹² Aren't the rivers in Damascus, the Abana and the Pharpar, better than all Israel's

waters? Couldn't I wash in them and get clean?" So he turned away and proceeded to leave in anger.

¹³ Naaman's servants came up to him and spoke to him: "Our father, if the prophet had told you to do something difficult, wouldn't you have done it? All he said to you was, 'Wash and become clean.'" ¹⁴ So Naaman went down and bathed in the Jordan seven times, just as the man of God had said. His skin was restored like that of a young boy, and he became clean.

This is the word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 30
UMH 762-763

¹I will extol you, O Lord, for you have lifted me up, and did not let my foes rejoice over me.

²**O Lord my God, I cried to you for help, and you healed me.**

³O Lord, you brought up my soul from Sheol...
restored me to life from among those gone down to the pit.

⁴Sing praises to the Lord, O his faithful ones, and give thanks to his holy name.

⁵**Surely the Lord's anger is but for a moment; the Lord's favor is for a lifetime.**

Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.

⁶**As for me, I said in my prosperity, "I shall never be moved."**

⁷By your favor, O Lord, you had established me as a strong mountain...

you hid your face, I was dismayed.

⁸To you, O Lord, I cried, and to the Lord I made supplication:

⁹**"What profit is there in my death, if I go down to the pit?"**

Will the dust praise you? Will it tell of your faithfulness?

¹⁰**Hear, O Lord, and be gracious to me! O Lord, be my helper!"**

¹¹You have turned my mourning into dancing; you have loosed my sackcloth and girded me with gladness, ¹²that my soul may praise you and not be silent.

O Lord, my God, I will give thanks to you forever.

1 John 4:7-19
The Common English Bible

⁷Dear friends, let's love each other, because love is from God, and everyone who loves is born from God and knows God. ⁸The person who doesn't love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹This is how the love of God is revealed to us: God has sent his only Son into the world so that we can live through him. ¹⁰This is love: it is not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son as the sacrifice that deals with our sins.

¹¹Dear friends, if God loved us this way, we also ought to love each other. ¹²No one has ever seen God. If we love each other, God remains in us and his love is made perfect in us. ¹³This is how we know we remain in him and he remains in us, because he has given us a measure of his Spirit. ¹⁴We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son to be the savior of the world. ¹⁵If any of us confess that Jesus is God's Son, God remains in us and we remain in God. ¹⁶We have known and have believed the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who remain in love remain in God and God remains in them. ¹⁷This is how love has been perfected in us, so that we can have confidence on the Judgment Day, because we are exactly the same as God is in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear, because fear expects punishment. The person who is afraid has not been made perfect in love. ¹⁹We love because God first loved us.