

In This Series...

1. We are learning that most of us could think much bigger about what we can do for the sake of God's Kingdom.
2. We are seeing that common, faithful people, with a big dream, and great faith, can make a tremendous difference in our world.

Seven Lessons from the Life of Naaman

"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." - 2 Kings 5:1

- Naaman had it all: position, reputation, victories, and bravery. And, the Lord God had given him victory.
- But, he had leprosy (some form of skin disease).

1. Every one of us has an exception (but) in our lives, and it is that exception that drives us towards God. Be thankful for it.

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

- Somewhere in Israel a family was broken over the loss of a daughter. But God had a bigger plan.
 - This young girl, with great faith, boldly shares a solution.
2. What seems like a great burden to you now, may turn out to be a great blessing from the Lord.

"Naaman went to his master and told him what the girl from Israel had said. ⁵'By all means, go,' the king of Aram replied. 'I will send a letter to the king of Israel.'" So Naaman left, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold and ten sets of clothing. ⁶The letter that he took to the king of Israel read: "With this letter I am sending my servant Naaman to you so that you may cure him of his leprosy." - 2 Kg 5:4-6

- Amazingly, both Naaman and the king believed the girl, and they assumed that a healing would come at great expense. *(Note the simplicity and faith within the letter!)*
 - Apparently, there were many faithless people in Israel. *"And there were many in Israel with leprosy in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them was cleansed — only Naaman the Syrian."* - Luke 4:27
3. Sometimes the answer is close, but we don't see it because of familiarity or lack of faith.

"As soon as the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his robes and said, 'Am I God? Can I kill and bring back to life? Why does this fellow send someone to me to be cured of his leprosy? See how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me!'" ⁸When Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his robes, he sent him this message: "Why have you torn your robes? Have the man come to me and he will know that there is a prophet in Israel." - 2 Kings 5:7-8

- The king of Israel is not named. (He is weak, and has no faith.)
- Elisha sighed at the faithless king and said, "send him to me" so that he will know that there is a prophet in Israel. (vs. 6)

4. With no faith or courage, we will not be remembered.

"So Naaman went with his horses and chariots and stopped at the door of Elisha's house. ¹⁰Elisha sent a messenger to say to him, 'Go, wash yourself seven times in the Jordan, and your flesh will be restored and you will be cleansed.'" - 2 Kings 5:9,10

- Naaman went with his horses and chariots. This is his focus.
- Elisha, knowing Naaman's problem with pride, didn't go out to him; sent a messenger; and told him to dip in a muddy river.

5. Often we think we know what healing we need.

Many of us are seeking healing from the wrong disease!

"But Naaman went away angry and said, 'I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, wave his hand over the spot and cure me of my leprosy. ¹²Are not Abana and Parpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than any of the waters of Israel? Couldn't I wash in them and be cleansed?'" So he turned and went off in a rage." - 2 Kings 5:11,12

- Naaman's anger and rage prove his pride.
- Naaman thought he knew best how God should act. *(Elisha could have . . .)*
- Even Naaman's rivers were better.

6. Many of us know exactly what God should do and when and how He should do it. And because of this pride, He cannot help us.

"Naaman's servants went to him and said, 'My father, if the prophet had told you to do some great thing, would you not have done it? How much more, then, when he tells you, 'Wash and be cleansed!'" ¹⁴So he went down and dipped himself in the Jordan seven times, as the man of God had told him, and his flesh was restored and became clean like that of a young boy. ¹⁵Then Naaman and all his attendants went back to the man of God. He stood before him and said, "Now I know that there is no God in all the world except in Israel." - vs. 5:13-15

- Naaman surrounded himself with good, wise, and brave people.
- Naaman was obedient to God, and he was healed.
- Note that Naaman and his attendants (not just the horses and chariots) return to Elisha.

7. When we notice the people around us, we have finally dealt with our pride and God can use us.

Elisha! Go For It! Humility

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