

NOT WHAT YOU THOUGHT

2 Kings 5:1-8 Now Naaman, captain of the host of the king of Syria, was a great man with his master, and honourable, because by him the LORD had given deliverance unto Syria: he was also a mighty man in valour, but he was a leper. 2 And the Syrians had gone out by companies, and had brought away captive out of the land of Israel a little maid; and she waited on Naaman's wife. 3 And she said unto her mistress, Would God my lord were with the prophet that is in Samaria! for he would recover him of his leprosy. 4 And one went in, and told his lord, saying, Thus and thus said the maid that is of the land of Israel. 5 And the king of Syria said, Go to, go, and I will send a letter unto the king of Israel. And he departed, and took with him ten talents of silver, and six thousand pieces of gold, and ten changes of raiment. 6 And he brought the letter to the king of Israel, saying, Now when this letter is come unto thee, behold, I have therewith sent Naaman my servant to thee, that thou mayest recover him of his leprosy. 7 And it came to pass, when the king of Israel had read the letter, that he rent his clothes, and said, Am I God, to kill and to make alive, that this man doth send unto me to recover a man of his leprosy? wherefore consider, I pray you, and see how he seeketh a quarrel against me. 8 And it was so, when Elisha the man of God had heard that the king of Israel had rent his clothes, that he sent to the king, saying, Wherefore hast thou rent thy clothes? let him come now to me, and he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel.

I. Calvin and Hobbes

A. Helicopter Beany

1. Not what he thought

II. Setting

A. Separate Nations

1. Israel has been attacked by the Assyrian nation

a) *They have taken away captives and slaves*

III. Naaman

A. Definition

1. Pleasant

B. Mighty Warrior vs. 1

1. Leader in the army of Assyria

C. Respected man

1. He was a land owner

2. He owned slaves

a) *Enough even for his wife to have her own maid servant*

3. Captain of the guard

a) *A man with integrity*

4. Personally known by the king of Assyria

a) *The king was even willing to send a letter with Naaman showing how much trust that he had in him*

D. Religious man

1. In the pagan church

a) *We find this out later on in this chapter*

E. He was used by God

1. To give victory to the Assyrian army

2. He was intelligent

F. Leper

1. He was a leper

2. He had an incurable disease

a) *All of that other stuff tends to fade to the background when you have a serious problem*

IV. Leprosy

A. Causes loss of sensation

The Bacillus virus attacks nerve endings and destroys the body's ability to feel pain or injury. Without pain people injure themselves on fire, thorns, rocks, etc. Injuries become infected and result in tissue loss. Fingers and toes become shortened and deformed as the cartilage is absorbed into the body.

B. Become desensitized

1. Lose feelings of pain
2. Never know when you are hurt

a) *Both minor and serious injuries*

C. Type of sin

1. World is becoming desensitized today

V. The Maid

A. Captive in Syria vs. 2

1. From a previous raid

a) *She has no social standing*

B. What she knew

1. She knew the prophet

a) *She knew where the power of God was*

(1) In Samaria

b) *She knew the real power vs. the fakers and deceivers*

(1) Elisha was so famous that everyone knew him

- (2) She was not confused on who to send Naaman to
- 2. Do we know where the power is?
 - a) *Does the city of Crestwood know about C3*
 - b) *Do the members of the church tell others about the church?*
- C. What she said
 - 1. Love
 - a) *For her captor*
 - (1) Far from her family and home
 - b) *Love for her boss*
 - (1) The one that made her into a slave
 - (2) She would not have been a slave without him
 - 2. Faith
 - a) *The prophet would recover you*
 - (1) There is no doubt that you will be healed
 - (2) Her conviction touched Naaman
 - (a) So much so that he immediately went to the king and requested to go to Israel vs. 4

VI. The King of Israel

- A. Naaman comes to the King
 - 1. He brings a letter
 - a) *General letter – not specific*
 - 2. And gifts
 - a) *This is an ancient custom still followed somewhat in the*
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Palestinian area today

B. The King's reaction

1. Am I God vs. 7

a) What you are asking for is impossible

(1) It is a shame that the King did not know to send Naaman to Elisha

2. Is this some kind of trick for invasion

a) He was suspicious of Naaman asking for help

C. Elisha's response

1. Send him to me vs. 8

2. He will know that there is a prophet in Israel

2 Kings 5:9 So Naaman came with his horses and with his chariot, and stood at the door of the house of Elisha.

VII. The visit

A. Naaman arrives

1. Horses and chariots vs. 9

2. He also had servants with him

a) He arrived in full splendor of his office and position in Syria

2 Kings 5:10 And Elisha sent a messenger unto him, saying, Go and wash in Jordan seven times, and thy flesh shall come again to thee, and thou shalt be clean.

B. Elisha sends his messenger

1. Does not come himself

2. Does not even send his usual servant

a) Just an unnamed messenger

3. Does not even send his staff or his mantle

a) *Symbols of his power and office*

C. Instructions

1. Go and wash 7 times

a) *Ordinary – go take a bath*

2. In the Jordan River

a) *Muddy dirty river*

(1) Go wash in the Chicago River

2 Kings 5:11-12 But Naaman was wroth, and went away, and said, Behold, I thought, He will surely come out to me, and stand, and call on the name of the LORD his God, and strike his hand over the place, and recover the leper. 12 Are not Abana and Pharpar, rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? may I not wash in them, and be clean? So he turned and went away in a rage.

VIII. Naaman's Anger

A. I thought

1. He will come out. Vs 11

a) *I deserve personal attention*

2. He will lay hands on me

a) *That's what all the other prophets do*

3. He will call on God

a) *Oh yeah and God will involved somewhere*

B. But this?

1. Take a bath

2. In dirty water

a) *To become clean*

3. That doesn't make sense

4. I have a better way vs. 12

2 Kings 5:13 And his servants came near, and spake unto him, and said, My father, if the prophet had bid thee do some great thing, wouldest thou not have done it? how much rather then, when he saith to thee, Wash, and be clean?

IX. The servants reasoning

A. This is easy

1. Are you going to reject it because it is not hard?

a) If he had asked you to do some great task you would have done it

2. Will you reject it because it's not what you thought?

2 Kings 5:14 Then went he down, and dipped himself seven times in Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God: and his flesh came again like unto the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.

B. The obedience

1. It wasn't the waters that cleansed Naaman

2. It was his obedience to the Word of God

X. Today

A. Not what you thought

1. It's just another Sunday service

a) I thought when I received my healing there would be some evangelist

b) When I received the Holy Ghost there would be shouting and dancing

c) When I got delivered there would be choirs and angels

2. It is the obedience

a) Obedience to Acts 2:38

b) Obedience to oil and the elders

c) Obedience to what God is calling you to.

(1) Better than sacrifice is obedience.

