

Naaman's Bath - 2 Kings 5:1-19

Central Theme

Every believer needs to learn to humble themselves before God.

Outline

2 Kings 5:1-3 (AV)

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. 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. 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.

1. Naaman was a general, commander of the army of Syria.
 - a. A brave and victorious man, but a leper.
 - b. During their raids, the Syrians captured a young Israeli girl, who worked in the house of Naaman.
 - b.i. She told her mistress that in Samaria (Israel) her master could be healed of his leprosy.

2 Kings 5:4-5 (AV)

And *one* went in, and told his lord, saying, Thus and thus said the maid that *is* of the land of Israel. 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.

2. Naaman goes to the king and says, "Hey, this girl says there's a guy in Israel who can heal me".
 - a. Who of us, in Naaman's circumstances, wouldn't do anything to be healed.
 - b. The king says "Go, and I'll send a letter to the king of Israel.
 - c. So Naaman goes with gifts to give.

2 Kings 5:6 (AV)

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.

3. Now imagine you're the king who gets this letter.
 - a. The king of Israel cannot heal Naaman, but the king of Syria thinks so.
 - a.i. In most kingdoms, the king tells the prophet what to do.
 - a.i.1. In Israel, the prophet tells the king what God wants done.

- b. So here the king of Israel gets this letter from the king of Syria saying "cure my guy".
 - b.i. How would you like an impossible job like that?

2 Kings 5:7 (AV)

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.

- 4. Oh boy, the king of Israel thinks the king of Syria has given him an impossible task.
 - a. Can anyone but God cure leprosy?
 - b. The king has forgotten that he is king and there is a prophet in Israel.
 - c. Do we forget that God is in charge?
 - c.i. Do we act in fear when challenges arise?

2 Kings 5:8 (AV)

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.

- 5. Elisha hears about the king's "problem"
 - a. Why have you torn your clothes?
 - a.i. Hey king, don't you trust God?
 - a.ii. Hey king, don't you know there is a man of God in Israel?
 - a.iii. Just tell the man to come to the prophet.
 - b. Do we know there is a God present?
 - b.i. When someone encounters trouble, do we say send it over here?
 - b.ii. Do we trust that God is in charge?

2 Kings 5:9–12 (AV)

So Naaman came with his horses and with his chariot, and stood at the door of the house of Elisha. 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. 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. *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.

- 6. So Naaman shows up at Elisha's house.
 - a. Elisha doesn't even meet him, just sends a message to go dunk in the river.
 - b. Naaman is NOT happy!
 - b.i. Elisha should have come out and done some fancy mumbo-jumbo.
 - b.i.1. Do we look for fancy routines or rituals?
 - b.i.2. When something doesn't got with our traditions do we get angry?

- c. If Naaman has to bathe, aren't the rivers of Damascus better?
 - c.i. Naaman is VERY unhappy!
 - c.ii. Naaman thinks it's about the rivers or the ritual. But that is a mistake.

2 Kings 5:13-14 (AV)

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? 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.

7. You know Naaman, if Elisha had asked you to do some big thing you would have done it. Why not try the little thing?
 - a. We all have an idea of how God should do things.
 - a.i. Our traditions mean a lot to us.
 - a.ii. Do we get peeved when He doesn't comply with our ideas?
 - b. All Naaman has to do is wash seven times.
 - b.i. The General has to take off all his clothes.
 - b.i.1. Stand naked before his servants.
 - c. Imagine how he felt when he came out of the water the seventh time?
 - c.i. Clean like a child.
 - c.ii. The characteristic that has defined his life, has now changed.

2 Kings 5:15-16 (AV)

And he returned to the man of God, he and all his company, and came, and stood before him: and he said, Behold, now I know that *there is* no God in all the earth, but in Israel: now therefore, I pray thee, take a blessing of thy servant. But he said, *As the LORD liveth*, before whom I stand, I will receive none. And he urged him to take *it*; but he refused.

8. Because of this miracle, Naaman knows there is a God in Israel.
 - a. In gratitude, Naaman offers a gift.
 - b. In humility, Elisha refuses.

2 Kings 5:17-19 (AV)

And Naaman said, Shall there not then, I pray thee, be given to thy servant two mules' burden of earth? for thy servant will henceforth offer neither burnt offering nor sacrifice unto other gods, but unto the LORD. In this thing the LORD pardon thy servant, *that* when my master goeth into the house of Rimmon to worship there, and he leaneth on my hand, and I bow myself in the house of Rimmon: when I bow down myself in the house of Rimmon, the LORD pardon thy servant in this thing. And he said unto him, Go in peace. So he departed from him a little way.

9. Naaman swears to offer sacrifices only to the God of Israel.
 - a. He asks for the Lord to pardon the fact that his duty to his king means he must help him bow before his god.
 - b. Elisha bids him go in peace.

2 Kings 5:20 (AV)

But Gehazi, the servant of Elisha the man of God, said, Behold, my master hath spared Naaman this Syrian, in not receiving at his hands that which he brought: but, *as* the LORD liveth, I will run after him, and take somewhat of him.

10. Why should Naaman got off without paying something?
 - a. Gehazi knows better than Elisha and he's going to make Naaman pay something.
 - b. Do we think we know better than God who should pay what and when?

2 Kings 5:21–22 (AV)

So Gehazi followed after Naaman. And when Naaman saw *him* running after him, he lighted down from the chariot to meet him, and said, *Is* all well? And he said, All *is* well. My master hath sent me, saying, Behold, even now there be come to me from mount Ephraim two young men of the sons of the prophets: give them, I pray thee, a talent of silver, and two changes of garments.

11. Ever get that phone call in the middle of the night or early in the morning?
 - a. Naaman sees Gehazi chasing after him and assumes the worst.
 - b. Gehazi says all is well, then tells some story about two young men coming and having nothing to give them.

2 Kings 5:23–24 (AV)

And Naaman said, Be content, take two talents. And he urged him, and bound two talents of silver in two bags, with two changes of garments, and laid *them* upon two of his servants; and they bare *them* before him. And when he came to the tower, he took *them* from their hand, and bestowed *them* in the house: and he let the men go, and they departed.

12. Naaman says "Please, take two, they're small".
 - a. Then Gehazi goes and hides his ill gotten bootie.
 - a.i. Have you ever tried to hide something from God?
 - a.ii. Gehazi has seen the miracles that Elisha has done, and he thinks he can hide something from God's man?

2 Kings 5:25 (AV)

But he went in, and stood before his master. And Elisha said unto him, Whence *comest thou*, Gehazi? And he said, Thy servant went no whither.

13. Busted!
 - a. You know that moment as a kid when you realized that your parents know something you didn't want them to know?
 - b. And no matter how hard you try, your first instinct is to lie about it.
 - c. A wise man once said, when someone says they were nowhere in particular, you better find out where they were in general.

2 Kings 5:26–27 (AV)

And he said unto him, Went not mine heart *with thee*, when the man turned again from his chariot to meet thee? *Is it* a time to receive money, and to receive garments, and oliveyards, and vineyards, and sheep, and oxen, and menservants, and maidservants? The leprosy therefore of Naaman shall cleave unto thee, and unto thy seed for ever. And he went out from his presence a leper *as white* as snow.

14. Is it time to turn God's gifts into money making opportunities?

1 Timothy 5:18 (AV)

For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The labourer *is* worthy of his reward.

- a. A worker is worth their wages, but God is not to be used to our own gain.

Matthew 6:24 (AV)

No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

- b. You cannot serve God and anything else, not money, fame or power.
15. Do you have something in your life that you've asked God to fix?
- a. Are you willing to do what He says, even if it seems stupid?
 - b. Are you willing to trust the Word of God, even if it means humiliating yourself?
 - c. Are you willing to accept God's will, even if it isn't what you wanted?
 - d. Will you worship God wherever you go?
 - d.i. Even if it means working harder than others?
 - e. Will you serve God or something else?