

**"Naaman the Leper"**

**Part 1**

**2 Kings 5:1-15**

**Introduction:** The passage which we have come to tonight is one that is very well known among God's people for it is the story of Naaman the leper. This is probably the best-known miracle which God used Elisha to perform. It is my desire to look at this miracle very closely and to take our time working our way through this passage so as to gather as many spiritual Truths as what God will permit us to carry. You see, there is so much personal application within this text that has been placed here for our learning.

**Romans 15:4**

*<sup>4</sup> For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.*

I. **The Subject of the Miracle**

**Notice 2 Kings 5:1**

Here in this verse we are introduced to Naaman and we can see 6 points concerning him. We shall look at these 6 points and then consider the application for life.

1. **He was the captain of the host of the king of Syria.**

Today we would call this man "Commander in Chief". He belonged to the king's army and most likely he worked his way up through the ranks. He was a very hard working, self-disciplined sort of man. Currently, he is occupying a place of honor and prominence. He has reached the pinnacle of his profession.

2. **He was a great man with his master.**

Naaman had a close relationship with the king of Syria. There was no jealousy between the two men. We get the impression that Naaman did what he was assigned to do, and he did it to the pleasure of the king. Today Naaman would be the model employee and would be pleased to carry out the orders of those over him.

3. **He was honorable.**

This tells us the king had no problems with Naaman. He carried out his military orders and as he did he was very successful. Naaman's desire was to further the kingdom of the king of Syria. Naaman was not about self-promotion but his goal was to honor the king of Syria.

4. **The Lord had given to him the victories of his military campaigns.**

Here is an unsaved man whom God used to accomplish His purpose and His will. God had allowed this man to be successful in what he did and behind his success God had a purpose. This is not unusual for we see many unsaved people in the world today who are successful and are elevated to positions of honor. Why does God bring these blessings upon the unsaved at times?

**Romans 2:4**

*<sup>4</sup> Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?*

The blessings of God upon the unsaved are to lead them to repentance. It is God's desire that all come to repentance and salvation. David tells how we are not to be envious of the unsaved.

**Psalm 37:1**

*Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity.*

**5. He was a mighty man in valour.**

Naaman was a man of bravery and fortitude. He was a man who was fearless and there was no challenge that came before him which caused him to back down. He faced the challenges before him with confidence.

So, looking at Naaman the world would say that he was very successful and very accomplished. What more could a man desire than to reach the top in his field, He would have been very wealthy, people of power were at his disposal, power was in his hand. Naaman had reached the pinnacle which many men strive to attain. But there is one more point.

**6. He was a leper.**

He was the victim of a terrible incurable disease. The Word of God does not try to cover this point but instead puts it in the open for all to see. God's Word never flatters a man but instead it lays him in the dust.

**Application:**

Let us understand that it is God's will that a man sees himself in his TRUE spiritual condition. No matter how accomplished a person is in this world the Bible will lay his soul bare.

**Psalm 39:5**

<sup>5</sup> Behold, thou hast made my days as an handbreadth; and mine age is as nothing before thee: verily every man at his best state is altogether vanity. Selah.

**Romans 3:10-18**

<sup>10</sup> As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

<sup>11</sup> There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.

<sup>12</sup> They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

<sup>13</sup> Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips:

<sup>14</sup> Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness:

<sup>15</sup> Their feet are swift to shed blood:

<sup>16</sup> Destruction and misery are in their ways:

<sup>17</sup> And the way of peace have they not known:

<sup>18</sup> There is no fear of God before their eyes.

II. **The Picture**

Here in the text before us Naaman is a picture of every one of us. He was physically unclean because of his leprosy and we are spiritually unclean because of sin. Leprosy in the Old Testament was chosen to be the picture of sin in every person's life. God could have chosen any disease, but He chose to use leprosy to show the seriousness of sin. Allow me to show you the picture through 3 comparisons.

1. **It was not a doctor, but it was the high priest who was specifically assigned to deal with the leper.**

The same is also true of sin in the human race. It cannot be cured by the doctor and it is only our Great High Priest, Jesus Christ who has been assigned to deal with our sin.

2. **There was no remedy for leprosy, it could only be cured by a miracle.**

There is no remedy for sin in the human race today. As advanced as our medical field is man has never developed a cure for sin. It is only by the miracle of the NEW BIRTH that a sinner is spiritually healed of the deadly effects of sin.

3. **The leper was cut off from dwelling place of God, the people of the congregation, and he or she was put outside the camp.**

This is the very thing which sin does in everyone's life. It separates man from God and the sinner finds himself eventually cast into outer darkness if he or she dies in their sin.

Let us get back to Naaman. There are many people like Naaman in the world tonight. They have had great success, they may hold positions of great prominence, they serve their employers well and they are paid very well for their services. They have beautiful homes, they have attractive families, it even sometimes seems as though everything they touch turns to gold. But deep down inside there is a misery because there is a void in their lives that only God can fill. Let me show you the words of a Pastor taken from two books which he had read.

*"One was the memoir of Priscilla Presley in which she talked about her life with Elvis. The other was about Princess Diana by her personal aide. Elvis was the "King," and Diana was the "People's Princess." They were popular, wealthy, successful, and had everything that anyone could ever want. But what surprised me was how very unhappy they both were. Priscilla said, "Elvis and I couldn't be happy together because he was so unhappy...." He kept pumping himself full of pharmaceuticals in an effort to escape anxiety and unhappiness, and it finally killed him. Princess Diana's butler described her as constantly suffering from low self-esteem and a constant feeling of rejection, and she turned to psychics to help her cope with the pressures of life. Her desperate longing for happiness is part of the reason she died so young. She was only 36, and Elvis was only 42. The king and the princess—successful beyond belief, but miserable deep within."*

The world teaches that happiness is only found in wealth, great possessions and prominent positions and many buy into that lie even believers at times. I want to show you some information about people who have won the lottery.

- Lottery millionaire Michael Allen was bludgeoned to death in Lewiston, Maine.
- Lottery winner Billie Bob Harrell, who won \$31 million in the Texas lottery, committed suicide.
- Patrick Collier won \$1 million in the lottery and two weeks later was arrested for allegedly choking and punching his fiancée in the face.
- Lottery winner Phil Kitchen was found dead on his couch from the over consumption of whiskey.
- Lottery winner Dennis Elwell died from drinking cyanide.

- Lottery winner Jody Lee Taylor was arrested in Virginia for driving naked down the wrong side of the highway with his headlights off and trying to run over a sheriff's deputy.
- A 16-year-old lottery winner on the UK named Callie Rogers said, "Some days I don't even want to leave my house because people scream abuse at me. Two months ago, I thought I was the luckiest teenager in Britain, but today I can say I have never felt so miserable."
- Lottery millionaire Kevin Lee Sutton was charged with attempted murder for attempting to shoot another man in the head with a .22 caliber pistol.
- Seattle lottery millionaire Rick Camat was shot to death by police in a parking lot after he refused to drop his pistol.
- Gerald Muswagon won \$10 million in the lottery, spent it all in seven years, and then hanged himself.
- William Post III, who won \$16.2 million in the Pennsylvania lottery, died in bankruptcy. He told an interviewer, "Everybody dreams of winning money, but nobody realizes the nightmares that come out of the woodwork."

### III. **The Contributor to the Miracle.**

#### **Notice 2 Kings 5:2**

Here we are introduced to a little maid from the people of Israel. She had been taken captive when the Syrians attacked Israel and she was kept alive and was not a servant to Naaman's wife.

#### **Notice 2 Kings 5:3**

Girl of Israel sets for all of us.

She knew of how God was using Elisha and she voiced her desire for Naaman to see Elisha in order to be healed.

Let me just take some time here to help you to see the example this little unnamed girl of Israel sets for all of us.

She has been taken captive by the Syrians which means she has been separated from her family and placed in a home where she knows no one. Can you imagine the pain of this little girl being separated from her parents? Possibly her parents died in the raid of the Syrians

and even if they didn't she still would not know if she would ever see them again. The questions that would have flooded her mind were many.

Why did God allow this to happen?

Why would God allow her home to be shattered?

Would she ever see her parents again?

Why was she in such a cruel captivity?

These are questions all of us would ask in this situation. Many times, we do ask such questions when the lot appointed to us is not what we would have choose for our lives.

But what a comfort we find in the passage surrounding this little girl.

God had allowed her to be taken captive and placed under Naaman's roof to serve because she would play a major role in his healing and possibly his salvation.

**Application:**

Let me show you some verses that we all need to keep close to our hearts.

**Psalm 31:14-15a**

<sup>14</sup> *But I trusted in thee, O LORD: I said, Thou art my God.*

<sup>15</sup> **My times are in thy hand:**

**Psalm 23:2-3**

<sup>2</sup> *He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: **he leadeth me** beside the still waters.*

<sup>3</sup> *He restoreth my soul: **he leadeth me** in the paths of righteousness **for his name's sake.***

**Psalm 37:23**

<sup>23</sup> *The steps of a good man **are ordered by the LORD:** and he delighteth in his way.*

From these verses and from the life of this little maid we can be sure that God places us where He desires for us to be and there are going to be times when we cannot see the entire picture and we will not understand why we are in the situation that we are in.

Remember Joseph? Sold by his brothers, falsely accused by Potiphar's wife, forgotten in prison but all of that to get him in position to be the Prime Minister of Egypt to save his own family.

The amazing thing about this little maid is that she had no ill feelings toward Naaman and his family. She was in a place where she would not have chosen to be, but she maintained a positive spirit and she manifest the love of God for she cared about Naaman.

**Conclusion:**

Oh, how this little girl shames many of us today. We have our plans changed and we find ourselves in a situation we would never have chosen to be in and what do we do?

1. **We blame those who we believe caused us to get in the situation.**
2. **We complain about the circumstances.**
3. **We allow a spirit of bitterness to set in toward those whom we believe contributed to our situation.**

Let us always keep in mind several points:

1. **God often changes our plans and guides our steps leading us in to some uncomfortable situations.**
2. **God has a plan when He places us in these situations.**

**Romans 8:28**

*<sup>28</sup> And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*

3. **We are to glorify our Lord no matter where we are placed.**

**2 Corinthians 4:8-11**

*<sup>8</sup> We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair;*

*<sup>9</sup> Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed;*

*<sup>10</sup> Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.*

*<sup>11</sup> For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh.*

4. **There is always sufficient grace to sustain us in whatever the situation may be.**

**2 Corinthians 12:9**

*<sup>9</sup> And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.*