

"Naaman the Leper"

Part 2

2 Kings 5:1-15

Introduction: Last week in our study of Elisha we met a man by the name of Naaman. Naaman was a man who had reached the top in his profession. He is the subject of the miracle recorded in 2 Kings 5:1-15. Let me show you the accomplishments of Naaman.

I. The Subject of the Miracle

1. He was the captain of the host of the king of Syria.
2. He was a great man with his master.
3. He was honorable.
4. The Lord had given to him the victories of his military campaigns.
5. He was a mighty man in valour.

Naaman was a man the world would envy. He had it all. He had power and powerful people at his fingertips, he had a great relationship with the king of Syria, he was victorious in his military operations because God chose to give him victory, he feared no challenge and whatever he touched seemed to turn to gold. He had it all but there was a problem and God's Word did not hide it. Naaman was a leper.

Notice 2 Kings 5:1

Naaman represents every one of us. Leprosy is symbolic of sin in the Bible. Leprosy was an incurable disease and when someone was diagnosed it was a death sentence unless God performed a miracle. The same is also true of sin.

Ezekiel 18:20a

²⁰ The soul that sinneth, it shall die.

Romans 6:23a

23 For the wages of sin is death;

II. The Contributor to the Miracle.

Part 2

Notice 2 Kings 5:2-3

Here we are introduced to an unnamed little maid who had been taken captive by the Syrians. She was assigned to live under Naaman's roof and to assist Naaman's wife. She knew of the ministry of Elisha and so she expressed her desire for the leper to meet the man of God whom God could use to heal him.

This little maid was in a place she did not chose, she was the victim of a battle she did not fight, and yet she had no bitterness or resentment toward Naaman. Despite being in this situation she still lived her life in a way that was honoring to God.

This girl is a picture of what every believer should be. We belong to the Lord and therefore He has the right to place us where ever He desires for us to be. But the problem is when God places us where He wants us to be and it is not where we desire to be we often do nothing but complain and question Him. Last week we ended with 4 points to keep in mind when our plans are changed:

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.**
3. **We are to glorify our Lord no matter where we are placed.**
4. **There is always sufficient grace to sustain us in whatever the situation may be.**

This all brings us to where we are tonight in our study. I want to continue to look at this little maid for examples for our lives.

She was in a situation where there were not many opportunities to be useful, but she did not despise the small things. How easily it would have been for her to reason that it would be of no use for her to speak of Elisha or to argue that she only had an audience of one so why say anything. But instead of remaining silent she spoke up and announced that there was salvation even for a leper with a man by the name of Elisha.

Application:

What a reminder this little maid is to you and me that when there is an opportunity to speak up about the salvation which is available in Christ that we need to not look at the size of the crowd, but we need to speak even if there is only one person listening. You see, we have no idea how God will use the words we speak when we are speaking the Truth of His Word.

Hebrews 4:12

¹² For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

The point that we need to see is that when there is an opportunity set before us no matter how small it may seem we must be sure to speak up or to do whatever we can. Let me show you what is recorded in Zechariah.

Zechariah 4:8-10

⁸ Moreover the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

⁹ The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house; his hands shall also finish it; and thou shalt know that the LORD of hosts hath sent me unto you.

¹⁰ For who hath despised the day of small things? for they shall rejoice, and shall see the plummet in the hand of Zerubbabel with those seven; they are the eyes of the LORD, which run to and fro through the whole earth.

When Zerubbabel started the foundation of the Temple there were those who saw the beginning of the stone work as insignificant. But what they did not realize was every stone was important. This is what we must keep in mind wherever God places us also. Whatever we can do or say to magnify Jesus Christ can be used by God to make a difference no matter how small it may seem.

Notice 2 Kings 5:3-5

Here are the results of the little maid speaking the Truth. It was passed from one person to another. And it would eventually fall upon the ears of Elisha. The words of one little maid would change the life of Naaman forever.

Now I want to step back and look at this entire picture for a moment. Why would the king ever listen to the words of a little kitchen maid? Why would the one who heard her speak the few words ever think to carry her words to the king? There are some verses that will help us to see something very significant here.

The Lord was in all of this. He had allowed the little maid to be taken as part of the spoils of the battle. He made sure she was placed under the roof of Naaman and He used her words to start a chain of events that would eventually lead Naaman to Elisha.

1 Corinthians 1:25-29

²⁵ Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

²⁶ For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called:

²⁷ But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;

²⁸ *And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are:*

²⁹ *That no flesh should glory in his presence.*

It was just like God to use the little unnamed maid to start the chain of events which would lead to Naaman's healing. God delights in using that which the world sees as foolish or weak. Now let me show you why those who heard actually listened.

Proverbs 21:1

The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will.

Proverbs 20:12

¹² *The hearing ear, and the seeing eye, the LORD hath made even both of them.*

Acts 16:14

¹⁴ *And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul.*

When Lydia heard Paul, it was God who opened her heart. In the story of Naaman it was God who opened the ears of those who heard the little maid speak.

What does all of this mean to you and me? We never know how God will choose to use the words we speak. God places us where He desires for us to be and our responsibility is to serve Him no matter where that may be and no matter how trying the situation may be. We never know how God is going to work so we must not listen to the lies of Satan who will whispers in our ears, "They will never listen to you. You are only one person. They will surely ridicule you if you speak of Jesus Christ." These are just a few of his lies but whatever they are we must not be silenced by Satan for we never know whose ears and heart God is working on.

III. The Misunderstanding of the Miracle

Notice 2 Kings 5:4-5

There is something here in these verses that we must not miss. When the word of the little maid got to the king of Syria he immediately sent word to the king of Israel. But the problem was that the little maid never made mention of the king of Israel but instead she spoke of Elisha. When the king of Syria heard her words and he sent to the king of Israel he also sent ten talents of silver, six thousand pieces of gold and ten changes of raiment.

She never made mention of a required payment either. The one who heard the little maid and the king of Syria both picture the unsaved of our world today. You see they desire "healing" in the sense they are looking for salvation and fulfillment, but they do not know where to go nor do they understand that what they long for in their soul cannot be bought with money or any material wealth. So, the unsaved end up drinking from the cisterns of this world which do not contain the LIVING WATER which they need but instead are filled with spiritually poison water. In other words, they go to the false teachers who present themselves as ministers of righteousness, but they are really servants of Satan. They get caught up in the false worship of our world that teaches salvation can be purchased by money, works or ceremonies. They give much of their money trying to buy their friends or family members freedom from purgatory which does not even exist. They give their money in the offering plates with the hope they have given enough to be accepted by God when they die. The bottom line is they do not know whom to look to and they have no concept of GRACE.

Isaiah 55:1

Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

Application:

Romans 10:13, 14, 17

¹³ *For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*

¹⁴ *How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?*

¹⁷ *So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

It is our responsibility to be there to point them in the direction of Jesus Christ. God has entrusted to us the responsibility of spreading the Gospel to a lost and dying world. I am reminded of the Words of Jesus to His disciples.

Mark 16:15

¹⁵ *And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.*

IV. The Response of the King.

Notice 2 Kings 5:6-7

This shows the true spiritual condition of Israel at this time. The king should have been quick to point Naaman to Elisha, but he seemed to be ignorant of Elisha's miracles. This is exactly why God had delivered Israel into the hands of the Syrians. The king is the mirror image of the people under him and we can see in his response that he had no concern for spiritual things, but he was consumed with his own kingdom. The contrasts between the king and the little made are very sharp.

She was in a lowly and distressing situation. He was elevated sitting upon his throne overlooking his kingdom. She had compassion and concern for her master. The king thought only of himself and his kingdom. It did not matter to him who was suffering for in his mind it was all about him. She had faith in the God of Elisha knowing that He had the power to perform the impossible. He had no knowledge of God or God's man Elisha.

Application:

May we never be found as the king of Israel here in this text. This is the very reason why we need to know the Word of God so that when others look to us we can be sure to point them to the Way of Truth. Many believers however have become so caught up in their own "kingdoms" that they have neglected to seek a deeper walk with the Lord. Then when someone seeks them out for answers they have none.

1 Peter 3:15

¹⁵ But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

2 Timothy 2:14-17

¹⁴ Of these things put them in remembrance, charging them before the Lord that they strive not about words to no profit, but to the subverting of the hearers.

¹⁵ Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

¹⁶ But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness.

¹⁷ And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus;

We must understand that we will be held accountable for the Truth of the Gospel which we have within us.

Ezekiel 3:17-21

¹⁷ Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me.

¹⁸ When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand.

¹⁹ Yet if thou warn the wicked, and he turn not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul.

²⁰ Again, When a righteous man doth turn from his righteousness, and commit iniquity, and I lay a stumbling-block before him, he shall die: because thou hast not given him warning, he shall die in his sin, and his righteousness which he hath done shall not be remembered; but his blood will I require at thine hand.

²¹ Nevertheless if thou warn the righteous man, that the righteous sin not, and he doth not sin, he shall surely live, because he is warned; also thou hast delivered thy soul.

Conclusion:

This little maid again sets the example for God's children today. God has placed us in the places where He desires for us to serve. He puts us in contact with people and we must remember that we may be the only Jesus they ever meet so let us accept the placement God has chosen, let us not despise the small things and let us be willing to speak the Truth when the opportunity comes along. Remember we have no idea how God will work or what someone else will do with what they have heard.