

to worship only the God of Israel who healed him. His attempt to pay Elisha for the healing was rejected. Do you remember when you first realized the debt you owed that Jesus had paid? Rather than making offerings in payment for that debt, in what ways can we express our gratitude?

20 Gehazi, the servant of Elisha the man of God, said to himself, "My master was too easy on Naaman, this Aramean, by not accepting from him what he brought. As surely as the LORD lives, I will run after him and get something from him." ... 26 But Elisha said to him, "Was not my spirit with you when the man got down from his chariot to meet you? Is this the time to take money or to accept clothes--or olive groves and vineyards, or flocks and herds, or male and female slaves? 27 Naaman's leprosy will cling to you and to your descendants forever." Then Gehazi went from Elisha's presence and his skin was leprous--it had become as white as snow. - 2 Kings 5:20, 26-27 NIV

What motivated Gehazi to chase after Naaman? Why do you think Elisha said, "Is this the time to take money or to accept clothes"? How did Gehazi's actions undermine the testimony of God's grace shown to Naaman?

It can be tempting to justify doing something wrong because it seems like a missed opportunity. But God made no further demands of Naaman than his humble obedience and faith.

WRAP-UP

The story of Naaman and Elisha reveals God's sovereignty, grace, and His ability to overcome human pride. Though Naaman was a powerful Aramean commander and an enemy of Israel, God chose to heal him through the simple act of obedient faith, demonstrating that His grace is available to everyone. Throughout the account, God works through unlikely servants—a captive Israelite girl, Elisha's messenger, and Naaman's own servants—to accomplish His purposes. In contrast, Gehazi's greed and deception show how easily selfish ambition can undermine God's testimony of grace. This story invites us to consider whether we humbly receive God's gifts with gratitude or allow pride, unmet expectations, or the pursuit of personal gain to distract us.

MEMORY VERSE

13 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'!" -2 Kings 5:13 NIV

Challenge –

This week be alert to the little ways you can demonstrate God's love to others by small acts of kindness and generosity.

The Oldies- Week 9 Naaman and Elisha

INTRODUCTION

The story of Naaman and Elisha is a remarkable study in God's sovereignty, His grace, and man's pride. Naaman was a great man, highly regarded and an Aramean commander, who had leprosy. Israel and Aram were adversaries. Nevertheless, the Bible tells us the Lord used Naaman to give Aram victory. In this we recognize that God is sovereign even over the pagan nations. Throughout this story we also see how God strategically used servants to advance His plans. Ultimately, we find God's grace can't be purchased nor earned; it is a free gift which we humbly receive.

Ice Breaker

Have you ever been given instructions that seemed too simple to work? Did you follow them?

Key Passage

10 Elisha 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." 11 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. 12 Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Couldn't I wash in them and be cleansed?" So he turned and went off in a rage. 13 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'!" 14 So 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. - 2 Kings 5:10-14 NIV

STUDY QUESTIONS

1 God's Sovereignty

1 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 Now bands of raiders from Aram had gone out and had taken captive a young girl from Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. 3 She said to her mistress, "If only my master would see the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy." 4 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. - 2 Kings 5:1-5 NIV

The first verse in this story specifically tells us that the Lord had used Naaman to bring victory to Aram (Syria). When the Kings of Israel did evil in God's sight, pagan nations could be used by God to bring about the consequences of Israel's rebellion. During Aramean raids on Israel, a child had been captured and made a servant in Naaman's household.

What does the girl's statement tell us about her relationship and attitude towards Naaman and about her faith in Elisha? Naaman was called a great man in the sight of "his master" and the girl refers to Naaman as "my master". How did these two "servants" find favor in the eyes of their masters?

Even though Naaman had fought in Israel, his knowledge about the prophet of the Lord came through a servant. The only other healing of leprosy at that time had been God's healing of Miriam's leprosy when Moses interceded for his sister's rebellion. But this little girl demonstrated supernatural faith that Elisha would heal Naaman. God placed her where she could bring hope in a hopeless situation. God sees and uses us no matter how insignificant we may think we are.

24 "Truly I tell you," he continued, "no prophet is accepted in his hometown. ... 27 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 4:24, 27 NIV- Luke 4:27 NIV

When Jesus was rejected in Nazareth, He referred to Naaman being healed but no one else. What was it made Naaman's healing possible? In what ways is leprosy like sin?

2. Conquering Pride

8 When 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." ... 10 Elisha 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." 11 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. 12 Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Couldn't I wash in them and be cleansed?" So he turned and went off in a rage. - 2 Kings 5:8, 10-12 NIV

The prophets were peculiar people, and they had their own unique defining characteristics, Elisha's might have been pride. The king was distressed, when he was asked to heal Naaman's leprosy, but Elisha sent a message to the king (v. 8).

What was it Elisha wanted Naaman to know? When Naaman came to Elisha, a messenger was sent out of the house to tell him to wash in the

Jordan. Why do you think Elisha choose not to speak directly with Naaman? How did Naaman react?

Naaman was used to being honored and respected. When Elisha sent his servant to instruct him to wash in the Jordan, Naaman's pride appears to have been wounded, making it difficult for him to accept such a simple and humbling command. Naaman had an unmet expectation that Elisha would deliver the healing himself by calling on the name of God. Because of that, he nearly forfeited his chance to be healed.

If you've had unmet expectations in how God has chosen to work in your life, share those and how you have dealt with that. Or have you been surprised by God's grace when you least expected it?

13 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'!" 14 So 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. 15 Then 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. So please accept a gift from your servant." - 2 Kings 5:13-15 NIV

When Naaman's pride was wounded, God was able to reach him using his own servants as advisors. God gives grace to the humble.

Naaman demonstrated his humility by listening to his servants' advice and obeying Elisha's instructions to wash- 7 times! The number 7 reminds us of God's completed work in creation. How humbling it must have been to be publicly exposed as he repeatedly dipped beneath the Jordan.

What was Naaman's revelation upon being healed? How was that different from what Elisha wanted him to know? What do you think motivated Naaman to offer gifts to Elisha?

3. God's Unearned Grace

16 The prophet answered, "As surely as the LORD lives, whom I serve, I will not accept a thing." And even though Naaman urged him, he refused. 17 "If you will not," said Naaman, "please let me, your servant, be given as much earth as a pair of mules can carry, for your servant will never again make burnt offerings and sacrifices to any other god but the LORD. 18 But may the LORD forgive your servant for this one thing: When my master enters the temple of Rimmon to bow down and he is leaning on my arm and I have to bow there also--when I bow down in the temple of Rimmon, may the LORD forgive your servant for this." 19 "Go in peace," Elisha said... - 2 Kings 5:16-19a NIV

It is unclear why Naaman requested the soil, but it is clear that he intended