

A CAPTAIN CALLED NAAMAN

II KINGS 5:1-14

1. The Prophet Elijah is mentioned by name 29 times in the New Testament while Elisha is mentioned by name only once.

Jesus said in Luke 4:27, speaking to the people in the synagogue at Nazareth,

“And many lepers were in Israel at the time of Elisha the prophet, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.” (NKJV)

2. This is the only reference to the prophet Elisha by name in the entire New Testament.

Naaman was a Gentile and the top General in the Syrian Army which was an enemy nation.

Israel had fought many wars with Syria. In fact, there were people from Israel who were slaves in Syria at that time.

3. Naaman was an enemy who had taken captive many young Jewish girls. In fact, one of them was a slave to his wife in his own house.

However, Naaman was a leper. It's likely that most people in Israel wanted to see him isolated and left to die.

4. The King of Syria was Ben Hadad II, and as the Commander of the Army, Naaman was the second most powerful man in the nation.

Let's look at:
A CAPTAIN CALLED NAAMAN.

- a. His Sickness.
- b. His Servant.
- c. His Stubbornness.
- d. His Submission.

A. HIS SICKNESS.

1. (2 Kings 5:1) Naaman was highly regarded by the king and the nation. He was said to be “...a great man...honorable...a mighty man of valor...”

But with all of his prestige, authority and wealth, Naaman was a doomed man. He had been stricken with leprosy.

2. It seems that the infection was contained in one place. (v-11)

However, leprosy has a tendency to spread and, if left unchecked, it is terminal.

So, with all of his power and prestige, his future was extremely bleak.

3. Leprosy is always a type of sin in the Holy Bible.

a. Like sin, it cannot be hidden. It is apparent by the decay it causes in the body.

Num. 32:23 says, “...be sure your sin will find you out.”

b. Like sin, it can only be cured by God. Even today, there is no known medical cure for leprosy.

1 John 1:9 says, “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

c. Like sin, it is unclean.

Jer. 17:9 says, “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?”

d. Like sin, it spreads quickly and is fatal. Rom. 3:23 says, “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.”

Rom. 6:23 says, “For the wages of sin is death...”

4. In fact, all people are born into this world infected by the disease of sin.

Rom. 3:10 says, “...There is none righteous, no, not one.”

Isa. 53:6 says, “All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way...”

5. Naaman had been stricken with leprosy which was always fatal. This is true about all people who are born into this world sinners.

So, We See HIS SICKNESS.

B. HIS SERVANT.

1. (2 Kings 5:2-4) It was a young Jewish girl who had been taken captive from her family in Israel to be a slave in Syria.

Most people, under those conditions, would have been bitter toward this Syrian Captain.

2. Any news of his having leprosy would have been welcome news. Many would have said, ‘It serves him right.’

However, this young lady was different. She was humble and compassionate.

3. She offered hope for his healing. It would involve going to the Prophet in Israel.

However, the hope for sinners is found only in Jesus Christ.

Acts 4:12 says, “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other Name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”

4. This young lady shared her message with the wife of her master. (v-3)

We, as the children of God, have a message to share with a lost and dying world. They are infected with the terminal spiritual disease called sin.

Jesus said in Mark 16:15b-16a, “...Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature.”

“He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved...”

5. Jesus said in John 15:16, “Ye have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that you should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain; that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in My Name, He may give it you.”

This young lady shared the simple message of healing so that Naaman could be cured of his fatal affliction.

6. We have that same promise of healing today. It applies to both the spiritual and the physical.

Isa. 53:5 says, “But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His Stripes we are healed.”

7. 1 Peter 2:24 says concerning Jesus, “Who His Own Self bare our sins in His Own Body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by Whose Stripes ye WERE HEALED.”

Notice, this young lady, in spite of her past and present circumstances, was faithful in her witness for the Lord.

So, We See HIS SERVANT.

C. HIS STUBBORNNESS.

1. (2 Kings 5:5-8) It seems that Naaman misunderstood the message at first. Instead of going to the Prophet in Israel, he went to the King of Israel.

In so doing, there was potential for an international provocation.

2. However, the Prophet sent word to the King telling him to send the leprous man to him.

So, Naaman went to the house of Elisha. When he arrived, the Prophet told his servant to tell him to go and dip seven times in the Jordan river.

(2 Kings 5:9-10)

3. The Syrian Captain was upset to say the least. (2 Kings 5:11-12)

This was not in keeping with proper protocol.

Naaman was a very proud man. He was used to being treated with respect and high honor. This could have kept him from receiving what he needed from God.

4. Probably nothing keeps more people from God than Pride. It is the sin that keeps people, who hear the Gospel, from Repentance toward God and Faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

Every person who is convicted of sin and fails to respond does so because of pride.

5. It is the sin that keeps Christians from

having God's Best.

All Pride, whether in believers or unbelievers, is sin. It displeases God! It is hated by God.

The first of the seven things that God hates is "A Proud Look..." (Prov. 6:17)

6. It is Pride that keeps people from having their needs met by God. It causes them to think they can do it by themselves.

James 4:6 b says, "...God resisteth the proud, but giveth Grace unto the Humble."

7. James 4:10 says, "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He shall lift you up."

1 Peter 5:6 says, "Humble yourselves therefore under the Mighty Hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time."

8. It was Pride that almost kept Naaman from receiving healing for his leprosy.

Obedience to the Word of God through the man of God was necessary in order for him to be healed.

9. It is still true today. People fail to receive from God because of disobedience to His Word.

Naaman was told to dip seven times in the muddy Jordan river. There was no good explanation for this command by the Prophet.

10. It made no sense at all. However, it was essential in order for him to be healed of his leprosy.

In fact, the key to success and victory in our spiritual walk always involves Obedience.

11. Jesus said in John 14:13a, "And whatsoever ye shall ask in My Name, that will I do..."

(John 14:14) "If ye ask any thing in My Name, I will do it."

(John 14:15) "If ye love Me, keep My Commandments."

12. It seems that if we don't keep His Commandments, there is reason to question how much we love Him.

In fact, He says if we don't Obey Him, we don't Love Him.

13. So, Naaman was too proud to dip in the muddy Jordan river. However, it was the only way that he would be cured.

Remember, it is Pride that separates us from God. (James 4:6)

14. However, he had some servants who had a proper understanding of the situation. (5:13)

He could return to Damascus and die a leper or he could humble himself and obey the command of the Prophet.

15. These servants encouraged him to obey and

not allow his pride to stand in the way of his being healed.

Unfortunately, there are those who will never receive God's cleansing from sin, by the Blood of Christ, because of their pride.

16. They will live and die separated from God and His Grace because of sin.

There are those who claim His Salvation but who are not living in victory because of their pride.

Remember, Humility and Obedience always go together.

17. In fact, these are acts on our part. It is when we Humble Ourselves that God Gives Grace.

It is when we are Obedient to Him and to His Word that all of His Resources become available to us.

18. But Naaman was proud and refused to humble himself. He refused to obey the Word of God through the man of God.

So, We See HIS STUBBORNNESS.

D. HIS SUBMISSION.

1. (2 Kings 5:14) Notice, he set his pride aside. He humbled himself so that he could receive from the Lord.

He did that which he did not want to do.

He went to the Jordan river and dipped seven times in obedience to the Word of God through the man of God.

2. Remember, Humility before the Lord brings Blessing from the Lord.

Imagine, his flesh was that of a small child. His flesh as an adult was contaminated by leprosy.

However, his obedience restored his flesh to the way it had been many years before.

3. It was all because he Submitted Himself to God and to His Word. We know this by his obedience.

So, he was changed. He went home a different man. He was never the same again. His leprosy was gone and he was clean.

4. This is like a sinner who comes to Christ in Humility and Repentance. He leaves his leprosy or sin and goes away clean.

That is what Naaman did.

So, We See HIS SUBMISSION.

A CAPTAIN CALLED NAAMAN.

A. HIS SICKNESS.

He was a leper which is a type of a lost sinner.

B. HIS SERVANT.

She was a captive from Israel who told him about the Prophet of God in Israel.

C. HIS STUBBORNNESS.

He was proud and refused to obey the Word of God through the man of God.

D. HIS SUBMISSION.

He humbled himself and was obedient to the Word of God through the man of God.

5. As a result he was cleansed of his leprosy. However, pride almost kept him from his healing.

Pride always separates us from God. That includes both believers and unbelievers.

6. So, we must practice Humility on a daily basis. Remember, Humility and Obedience is our part while Giving Grace and Provision is God's Part.

However, Grace and Provision can never come until there has been Humility and Obedience.

7. Remember, Jesus must be First in our lives.

In Matt. 6:33, He said, "...Seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and His Righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

That is everything that is needed in this life.

Let's Humble Ourselves and Be Obedient to His Word every day. Let's do it!