II Kings 5

Review…

- **I Kings 4 – Miracles of Elisha…**
  - A certain widow of a prophet came to Elisha asking for help to pay off her husbands debts…
    - Elisha had her to go and borrow AS MANY empty containers as she could...
    - She then poured out the oil from her jar - and filled all the empty containers!
    - Only when all the containers were full - did the oil in her jar run out!
  - A Godly woman from Shunem furnished an upstairs room for Elisha…
    - In response Elisha decided to do something nice for the woman…
      - He noticed she had no children – next year at this time you will have a child…
      - But one day the son of the Godly woman had a head ache – and shortly later died!
    - The woman did not tell anyone – but ran to get Elisha…
      - Elisha quickly came and found the boy lying in the upper room – dead…
      - He laid down on top of the boy – mouth to mouth / eyes to eyes / hands to hands…
      - The boy sneezed 7 times – then opened up his eyes!

The healing of Naaman… (*4 things*)

- **1st – The request of Naaman… vs. 1-7** Read: II Kings 5:1-7
  - 1st – Naaman was the General of the Syrian army… vs. 1
    - He was adored by the King – because the Lord had given him MANY victories …
      - But in spite of all his success – Naaman suffered from Leprosy…
      - Leprosy is a disease that attacks the body's nervous system so you can not feel...
      - It can be very dangerous because you do not know if you harm yourself…
      - Touch a hot stove - cut yourself on a blade - you would not know!
    - Leprosy carried with it a horrible stigma in Israel…
      - If you were diagnosed with leprosy you would be cut off from the community...
      - If anyone even walked close to you - you had to cry out 'unclean!'
      - Because no one could touch you or they would also become unclean - infected…
    - Symbolically used to refer to sin…
      - Just like leprosy - sin takes away your sensitivity to what is right and wrong…
      - The first time you commit a sin (*lying*) is the hardest – you feel it was wrong...
      - But it gets easier and easier each time - you stop feeling the guilt...
      - Eventually you lose all feeling of guilt and remorse…
      - Causing you to be cut off and isolated from God – unclean!
  - 2nd – Helping your enemy… vs. 2-4
    - The Syrians would frequently raid the nation of Israel – they were enemies…
      - In fact Jewish Rabbis say Naaman was the one who drew the bow that killed Ahab!
      - And in one of those raids a young Israeli girl was taken captive and made a slave…
      - She was given to Naaman – and she served as the maid for his wife!
      - It would be only natural for this little slave girl to be bitter – hate her captors…
      - But instead she faithful served them – and even tried to help them…
      - I wish my master would go and see Elisha – he could heal his leprosy!
    - Often we despise those who we work for – treat them like they are our enemies…

- But we should work hard for our boss – letting them see something different in us…
- Not just working hard as long as the boss is near by...
- But the moment they walk away - assume it is break time till the boss returns...
- I have worked for other people / and I have been in charge of workers...
- A boss knows who the good workers are - and who just works for show...
- If the boss comes back after an hour - you are busy - but not much has been done...
- The true test of a character is not what you do when people are watching...
- It is what you do when no one is looking - that is who you really are!
- So be an Godly example - cause it might just be that it leads them to Jesus Christ!

o 3rd – The letter from the King… vs. 5-7
- Naaman went to the King of Syria and told him about Elisha…
  - The King wrote a letter to the King of Israel – asking for him to heal Naaman…
  - He also sent P8 million in gold (*75kg*) / and P15,000 in silver (*340kg*)…
  - Along with 10 sets of very expensive (*brand name*) clothing!
- When King Jehoram read the letter – he was outraged…
  - The letter was a bit generic – it only said to 'heal Naaman' – no mention of Elisha…
  - King Jehoram demanded to know if they King of Syria through he was God…
  - Leprosy was an incurable disease – and God alone had the power to help Naaman!
  - If men come to us looking for answers and help – it is easy to try and be the answer...
  - If someone needs food / money / or wise counsel - we can try to help them out…
  - And men would much rather look to someone they can touch and see...
  - Therefore they are much more inclined to trust in a man than God!
  - The problem is we are limited – and can not always help those who look to us…
  - Maybe we can help them once – but when they come back - again and again...
  - We have limited abilities and resources – only God has limitless!

- **2ND – THE CURE FOR LEPROSY… VS. 8-14** READ: II KINGS 5:8-14

o 1st – Elisha heard about the request of Naaman… vs. 8-12
- He sent word to have Naaman come – and see there was a true prophet in Israel…
  - So Naaman came with all his horses and chariot to the house of Elisha…
  - But when he knocked – Elisha just sent word – go bath in the Jordan 7 times…
  - Naaman was FURIOUS – because Elisha had not even come to the door…
  - And because there were cleaner rivers than the Jordan in Syria!
  - It is true the Jordan River is a small – unimpressive – somewhat dirty river!
- People have a hard time with the Gospel – because it is too simple…
  - They feel they have to suffer for their sin – they must do something great to be saved!
  - That is why people crucify themselves on Holy Friday – trying to earn forgiveness…
  - Men will make pilgrimages in an effort to be made clean before God…
  - But when they hear the Gospel message – they refuse to believe – because it is too easy!

o 2nd - The servant of Naaman came to his master… vs. 13
- If Elisha had asked a great feat from Naaman – he would have done it…
- If he had been asked to climb a mountain / or defeat a mighty foe – not a problem…
- So why not try the simple task the prophet had required!
- Naaman could walk away – Elisha would not force him – then for sure noting would happen!
- The Gospel message is simple – there is nothing you have to do – just believe…
- We do not have to do anything to earn it – we just receive the free gift from God…
- **Ephesians 2:8** – "By grace you have been saved through faith… it is the gift of God…"

- God did not make salvation hard – because He wants everyone to be saved – **II Peter 3:9**
- But at the same time – it is our choice – heaven or hell / life or death…
- God does not make us go to heaven – He just provides the way!

o 3rd – Naaman went and bathed 7 times in the Jordan – and was healed… vs. 14
- Jesus picked up on this story when he was teaching in Nazareth – **Luke 4:22-30**
  - The people there expected Jesus to do miracles for them – He was from Nazareth…
  - In response Jesus reminded the people of two stories…
- There were many widows in Israel in days of Elijah - **I Kings 17:1**...
  - When Elijah hid from Ahab in the home of the widow named Zarephath…
  - She only had enough food for one last meal - then she and her son would starve...
  - Elijah asked to eat first - then promised there would be enough left for them...
  - The Lord miraculously provided each day - just enough - till the rain came again...
  - A despised gentile - was the only widow Elijah ever helped in the famine!
- There were many lepers in Israel in the days of Elisha...
  - Yet only Elisha helped Naaman - the commander of the armies of Syria…
  - The enemy of Israel - was the only man Elisha ever cured of leprosy!
- The point Jesus was making – God does not have favorites...
  - **Romans 2:11** - "For God does not show favoritism."
  - There is no cutting in line with God - there are no special perks...
  - It does not matter if you are rich/poor - man/woman - short/tall - **Galatians 3:28**
  - God does not ignore anyone - and He has no favorites - we are all sinners!
  - And He freely gives to us all the same hope of salvation through Jesus Christ!

- **3RD – FREELY YOU HAVE RECEIVED… VS. 15-19** READ: II KINGS 5:15-19

o 1st – Naaman quickly returned and stood before Elisha… vs. 15
- Naaman confessed that now he knew there was only one God in all the earth!
  - The first time Naaman had come – Elisha would not see him…
  - He would only tell him the cure for his leprosy (*sin*)…
  - But now because Naaman believed – and was clean - Naaman could now see Elisha!
- When we are still lost in our sin – we cannot see the Lord…
  - We call on Him – and the only answer we get is – go get cleaned up…
  - It is only when we believe – when we receive Jesus – and are forgiven…
  - That we can come before the Lord and see Him face to face!

o 2nd – Naaman offered all of the gifts to Elisha… vs. 16
- But Elisha refused to take anything from Naaman – because the Good News is free…
- In the same way you cannot earn your salvation / neither can you buy it…
- But it is a shame that many preachers / pastors have lost sight of that truth…
- Men who become 'pastors' because they think of it as a job - a way to make money...
- These men are not there to love and provide from the people – they take from them...
- Paul said it best – I would rather die than charge for the Gospel - **I Corinthians 9:15**

o 3rd – Naaman dedicated himself to the Lord… vs. 17-19
- He loaded up his donkeys with sacks of dirt from Israel…
  - He intended to use the dirt to build an altar in Syria so he could worship the Lord…
  - And he would ONLY worship the Lord – he would no longer worship the gods of Syria!
  - If you give you child a new toy – and they tell you they are SO thankful…
  - Only to set the toy down and leave it – makes you wonder how grateful they were!
  - A lot of 'Christians' say they are thankful for the work of Jesus on the cross…

- Then set down their 'new faith' and run around like the sinners they used to be!
- If we want to 'repay' the Lord for the wonderful gift of salvation…
- The only way to do so – is to live our lives for Jesus – show Him we are thankful!

▪ Naaman did ask Elisha for one pardon…
- When the King of Syria went to worship – and he bowed down to his god Rimmon…
- Naaman would also kneel – not in worship / but in respect of the King…
- Elisha told him to 'Go in peace' – because he knew it takes time to grow!
- We think of our walk in Jesus in terms of days / hours / minutes…
- God understands takes takes more like years / decades!
- We are not going to be great men and women of faith – we will make mistakes…
- The important thing is to be willing to step out and try to follow Jesus!

- **4TH – THE PRICE OF GREED… VS. 20-27** READ: II KINGS 5:20-27
  - 1st – Gehazi – the servant of Elisha – secretly went after Naaman… vs. 20-24
    - He thought Elisha was foolish for turning away the generous gift he had been offered…
      - He saw the gold / silver / and designer clothes – and he wanted them…
      - So Gehazi caught up with Naaman and told him an elaborate lie…
    - Two young prophets had just arrived from the mountains of Ephraim…
      - So 'Elisha' wanted to get a few sets of clothes / and some silver to give to them…
      - Naaman did not hesitate – he gave the clothes and 75kg of silver…
      - Gehazi brought them back to the house – and hid them away!
    - There are some who would take advantage of believers - God needs you money...
      - If you do not give us money – it is your fault people will go to hell...
      - Misrepresenting God – as if God who created everything – needs your money...
      - When in truth their motivation is nothing more than old fashioned greed!
  - 2nd – When Elisha saw Gehazi – he asked him where he had been… vs. 25
    - It was not a question – it was a test – to see if Gehazi would repent…
      - Elisha knew what his servant had done – he had 'been there in Spirit'…
      - Chances are Elisha saw Gehazi sneaking into the house with his 'prize'…
      - Though Gehazi denied it – the inevitable guilt on his servants face told the whole story!
    - We cannot hide our sin from God…
      - Like a child who denies eating the candy - with the evidence all over their mouth...
      - When we sin - we may think that no one noticed - we think we get away with it...
      - There may not even be immediate consequences - making us think God is OK with it…
      - God is patient - because he wants us to repent - admit to our sin...
      - But that does not mean that we will get away with our sin...
      - **Numbers 32:22** - "Be sure your sin will find you out."
      - As a result of his lack of repentance – Gehazi became leprous like Naaman had been!
  - 3rd – Elisha told Gehazi - this is not the time for wealth… vs. 26-27
    - Gehazi was tired of being a poor servant – he wanted to have servants…
    - He wanted to buy fields / to have lots of livestock / live the easy life…
    - But this is not the time to be wealthy – this is the time to share the wealth!
    - The time we have here is not to try to grasp at riches that will not last…
    - We are to use this time to share with others the Gospel – the wealth of Jesus Christ…
    - Because there will be a time for wealth – when we are home with our Father in heaven!