

# 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)

### ● 1<sup>ST</sup> – THE REQUEST OF NAAMAN... vs. 1-7 READ: II KINGS 5:1-7

- 1<sup>ST</sup> – 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!
- 2<sup>ND</sup> – 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 3<sup>rd</sup> – 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!
- 2<sup>ND</sup> – THE CURE FOR LEPROSY... vs. 8-14 READ: II KINGS 5:8-14
- o 1<sup>st</sup> – 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 2<sup>nd</sup> - 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 nothing 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 3<sup>rd</sup> – 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!
- 3<sup>RD</sup> – **FREELY YOU HAVE RECEIVED... vs. 15-19 READ: II KINGS 5:15-19**
  - o 1<sup>st</sup> – 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 2<sup>nd</sup> – 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 3<sup>rd</sup> – 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!
- **4<sup>TH</sup> - THE PRICE OF GREED... vs. 20-27 READ: II KINGS 5:20-27**
  - 1<sup>st</sup> - 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!
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> - 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!
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> - 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!