2 Kings 5:1-14

Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Aram,
was a great man and in high favour with his master,
because by him the Lord had given victory to Aram.

The man, though a mighty warrior,
suffered from leprosy.

2 Now the Arameans on one of their raids
had taken a young girl captive from the land of Israel,
and she served Naaman's wife.

3 She said to her mistress,
'If only my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria!
He would cure him of his leprosy.'

4 So Naaman went in and told his lord
just what the girl from the land of Israel had said.

5 And the king of Aram said,
'Go then, and I will send along a letter to the king of Israel.'

He went, taking with him
ten talents of silver,
six thousand shekels of gold,
and ten sets of garments.

6 He brought the letter to the king of Israel, which read,
'When this letter reaches you,
know that I have sent to you my servant Naaman,
that you may cure him of his leprosy.'*

7 When the king of Israel read the letter,
he tore his clothes and said,
'Am I God, to give death or life,
that this man sends word to me
to cure a man of his leprosy?

Just look and see how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me.'

8 But when Elisha the man of God heard
that the king of Israel had torn his clothes,
he sent a message to the king,

'Why have you torn your clothes?
Let him come to me,
that he may learn that there is a prophet in Israel.'

9 So Naaman came with his horses and chariots,
and halted at the entrance of Elisha's house.

10 Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying,
'Go, wash in the Jordan seven times,
and your flesh shall be restored and you shall be clean.'

11 But Naaman became angry and went away, saying,
'I thought that for me he would surely come out,
and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God,
and would wave his hand over the spot,
and cure the leprosy!
12 Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus,
better than all the waters of Israel?
Could I not wash in them, and be clean?'

He turned and went away in a rage.

13 But his servants approached and said to him, 'Father,
if the prophet had commanded you to do something difficult,
would you not have done it?
How much more, when all he said to you was,
"Wash, and be clean"?'

14 So he went down
and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan,
according to the word of the man of God;
his flesh was restored like the flesh of a young boy,
and he was clean.

Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

After this
the Lord appointed seventy others
and sent them on ahead of him in pairs
to every town and place
where he himself intended to go.

2 He said to them,
'The harvest is plentiful,
but the labourers are few;
therefore ask the Lord of the harvest
to send out labourers into his harvest.

3 Go on your way.
See, I am sending you out
like lambs into the midst of wolves.

4 Carry no purse,
no bag,
no sandals;
and greet no one
on the road.

5 Whatever house you enter, first say,
"Peace to this house!"

6 And if anyone is there who shares in peace,
your peace will rest on that person;
but if not, it will return to you.

7 Remain in the same house,
eating and drinking whatever they provide,
for the labourer deserves to be paid.

Do not move about from house to house.

8 Whenever you enter a town
and its people welcome you,
eat what is set before you;

9 cure the sick who are there,
and say to them,
"The kingdom of God has come near to you."

10 But whenever you enter a town
and they do not welcome you,
go out into its streets and say,

11 "Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet,
we wipe off in protest against you.
Yet know this: the kingdom of God has come near."

16 'Whoever listens to you listens to me,
and whoever rejects you rejects me,
and whoever rejects me rejects the one who sent me.'

17 The seventy returned with joy, saying,
'Lord, in your name even the demons submit to us!'

18 He said to them,
'I watched Satan fall from heaven like a flash of lightning.

19 See, I have given you authority
to tread on snakes and scorpions,
and over all the power of the enemy;
and nothing will hurt you.

20 Nevertheless, do not rejoice at this,
that the spirits submit to you,
but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.