

The Baptism of Naaman – 2 Kings 5:1-19

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- I. Introduction
- II. KEY THOUGHT: We will be examining the story of the healing of Naaman, comparing leprosy with sin, and the washing that cured Naaman's leprosy with Christian baptism
- III. Naaman's Condition
 - a. He was a great man in Syria
 - i. Army commander
 - ii. Enemy of Israel
 - iii. Great and honorable
 - iv. Used by God to give victory to Syria
 - v. Mighty and courageous
 - b. He was also a leper
 - i. Nobody's perfect
 - ii. But that doesn't make you want to hang around with lepers
 - iii. Why not?
 - iv. Leprosy is a horrible disease
 1. Modern leprosy
 - a. Incurable skin disease
 - b. Causes deterioration of skin, nerves and connective tissue
 - i. Horrible disfigurement
 - ii. Loss of feeling
 - iii. High susceptibility to injury and infection
 - c. Now can be slowed down or stopped with medicine, but not cured
 2. OT leprosy
 - a. May or may not have been the same disease we know as leprosy today
 - b. Was treated very seriously Lev 13-14
 - i. Priests were to examine and diagnose any potential cases (Lev. 13)
 - ii. Victims were ceremonially unclean (Lev. 13:45-46)
 1. Clothes torn
 2. Head bare
 3. Face covered
 4. Cry, "Unclean, unclean"
 5. Live alone outside the camp
 6. As long as the leprosy remained
 - v. Sin is also a horrible disease

1. It disfigures our spirit, our Character
 2. It desensitizes our conscious, so that we suffer spiritual damage without realizing it
 3. It make us morally unclean
 4. We cannot dwell with God and the righteous
 5. Our spiritual robes are defiled
 6. It is deadly and humanly incurable
 - vi. Leprosy sent as punishment on the wicked
 1. Dt. 24:9; Num. 12:10-13 – Miriam
 2. Gehazi – 2 Kings 5:27
 3. Uzzah – 2 Kings 15:5
- IV. Naaman's Action
- a. Advised by a servant girl
 - b. Assisted by his king
 - i. K&D – ten talents of silver worth L3750 in 1978
 1. L193.22/oz. gold in 1978 = 19.4 oz. gold
 2. 35.80 oz. silver/1 oz. gold in 1978 = 694.8 oz silver
 3. 56.73 oz. silver/1 oz. gold in 2008 = 12.25 oz gold
 4. \$900/ounce in 2008 = \$11,000 worth today
 - ii. K&D – 6000 shekels of gold = 2 talents of gold worth L7500 in 1978
 1. L193.22/ounce in 1978 = 38.82 fine ounces
 2. \$900/ounce in 2008 = \$34,900 today
 - iii. <http://www.measuringworth.org/datasets/gold> Approximately \$46,000 today
 - c. Traveled to Israel
 - d. Confused the Israelite king
 - i. King Joram/Jehoram
 - ii. The power of Jehovah was better known in a foreign land than in the royal court of Israel where He was worshipped
 - iii. How sad it is when God's people forget His power!
 - iv. Luke 4:27
 - e. Sent to Elisha
- V. Naaman's Prescription
- a. Delivered by a Servant
 - b. Unusual
 - c. Rejected by Naaman
 - d. Supported by his servant
- VI. Naaman's Baptism
- a. Carried out in obedience to the prescription
 - b. Resulted in the promised healing
 - i. Was it the water? No
 - c. Required both human and divine action
 - i. It was the combination of a human choice with a divine choice
 - ii. God offered
 - iii. Man accepted and obeyed

- iv. Both were necessary
 - v. No cure until both actions were taken
- VII. Baptism – the cure of sin
 - a. An exact parallel
 - b. Must be carried out in obedience to the gospel (Mark 16:15-16)
 - c. Results in cure of sin (Acts 2:38)
 - d. Depends on both human and divine action (Col. 2:11-13)
- VIII. Invitation
 - a. When we understand how horrible sin is
 - b. And that it is not just the world’s problem, it is our problem
 - c. We start looking for a solution
 - d. The gospel tells us the answer
 - i. Jesus shed His blood to save us
 - ii. We can be saved in Him
 - iii. We are baptized into Him to receive that forgiveness
 - iv. Some say
 - 1. It can’t be that easy
 - 2. Others say, that’s asking too much
 - e. 2 Kings 5:13
 - i. If you had been asked to do some great thing wouldn’t you have done it?
 - ii. How much more when Jesus says to you, “Wash and be clean?”
 - iii. Why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins!
Acts 22:16