

The Baptism of Naaman

2 Kings 5:1-19

Naaman's Condition

- A great man
- But also a leper

2 Kings 5:1

Now Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Syria, was a great and honorable man in the eyes of his master, because by him the LORD had given victory to Syria. He was also a mighty man of valor, but a leper.

Leprosy: A Horrible Disease

- Modern leprosy
 - A bacterial infection
 - Sores and disfigurement
 - Loss of feeling
 - High susceptibility to injury and infection
 - Now can be stopped with medicine, but not cured
 - Affects a tiny part of the worlds population
 - Over 90% are immune

Leprosy: A Horrible Disease

- Old Testament leprosy
 - May or may not have been what we call leprosy today
 - Treated very seriously
 - Diagnosed by the priests (Lev. 13-14)
 - Victims were ceremonially unclean (Lev. 13:45-46)
 - Often inflicted as a punishment by God (Num. 12:10-13; 2 Kings 5:27; 15:5)

Leviticus 13:45-46

"Now the leper on whom the sore is, his clothes shall be torn and his head bare; and he shall cover his mustache, and cry, 'Unclean! Unclean!' 46 He shall be unclean. All the days he has the sore he shall be unclean. He is unclean, and he shall dwell alone; his dwelling shall be outside the camp."

Sin: A Horrible Disease

- It disfigures our spirit
- It desensitizes our conscience
- It make us morally unclean
- We cannot dwell with God
- Our spiritual robes are defiled
- It is deadly and humanly incurable
- Affects 100% of the world's population

Naaman's Action

- Was advised by a servant girl (v. 2-3)

2 Kings 5:2-3

And the Syrians had gone out on raids, and had brought back captive a young girl from the land of Israel. She waited on Naaman's wife. 3 Then she said to her mistress, "If only my master were with the prophet who is in Samaria! For he would heal him of his leprosy."

Naaman's Action

- Was advised by a servant girl (v. 2-3)
- Was encouraged by his king (v. 4-5)

2 Kings 5:4-5

And Naaman went in and told his master, saying, "Thus and thus said the girl who is from the land of Israel." 5 Then the king of Syria said, "Go now, and I will send a letter to the king of Israel." So he departed and took with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten changes of clothing.

Naaman's Action

- Was advised by a servant girl (v. 2-3)
- Was encouraged by his king (v. 4-5)
- Confused the king of Israel (v. 6-7)

2 Kings 5:6-7

Then he brought the letter to the king of Israel, which said, Now be advised, when this letter comes to you, that I have sent Naaman my servant to you, that you may heal him of his leprosy. 7 And it happened, when the king of Israel read the letter, that he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to kill and make alive, that this man sends a man to me to heal him of his leprosy? Therefore please consider, and see how he seeks a quarrel with me."

Naaman's Action

- Was advised by a servant girl (v. 2-3)
- Was encouraged by his king (v. 4-5)
- Confused the king of Israel (v. 6-7)
- Resulted in an invitation from Elisha (v. 8-9)

2 Kings 5:8-9

So it was, when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, that he sent to the king, saying, "Why have you torn your clothes? Please let him come to me, and he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel." 9 Then Naaman went with his horses and chariot, and he stood at the door of Elisha's house.

Naaman's Prescription

- Was delivered by a servant (v. 10)
- Was unusual (v. 10)

2 Kings 5:10

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

Naaman's Prescription

- Was delivered by a servant (v. 10)
- Was unusual (v. 10)
- Was rejected by Naaman (v. 11-12)

2 Kings 5:11-12

But Naaman became furious, and went away and said, "Indeed, I said to myself, 'He will surely come out to me, and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, and wave his hand over the place, and heal the leprosy.' 12 Are not the Abanah and the Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?" So he turned and went away in a rage.

Naaman's Prescription

- Was delivered by a servant (v. 10)
- Was unusual (v. 10)
- Was rejected by Naaman (v. 11-12)
- Was supported by his servant (v. 13)

2 Kings 5:13

And his servants came near and spoke to him, and said, "My father, if the prophet had told you to do something great, would you not have done it? How much more then, when he says to you, 'Wash, and be clean'?"

Naaman's Baptism

- Was carried out in obedience to the prescription (v. 14)

2 Kings 5:14

So he went down and dipped seven times in the Jordan, **according to the saying of the man of God**; and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.

Naaman's Baptism

- Was carried out in obedience to the prescription (v. 14)
- Resulted in cleansing his leprosy (v. 14)

2 Kings 5:14

So he went down and dipped seven times in the Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God; and **his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.**

Naaman's Baptism

- Was carried out in obedience to the prescription (v. 14)
- Resulted in cleansing his leprosy (v. 14)
- Depended on both human and divine action

Christian Baptism

- Must be carried out in obedience to the gospel (Mark 16:16)

Mark 16:15-16

And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.

16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

Christian Baptism

- Must be carried out in obedience to the gospel (Mark 16:16)
- Results in cleansing the guilt of sin (Acts 2:38)

Acts 2:38

Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Christian Baptism

- Must be carried out in obedience to the gospel (Mark 16:16)
- Results in cleansing the guilt of sin (Acts 2:38)
- Depends on both human and divine action (Col. 2:11-13)

Colossians 2:11-13

In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, 12 **buried with Him in baptism**, in which you also were raised with Him **through faith in the working of God**, who raised Him from the dead. 13 And **you, being dead** in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, **He has made alive** together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses,

2 Kings 5:13

And his servants came near and spoke to him, and said, "My father, if the prophet had told you to do something great, would you not have done it? How much more then, when he says to you, '**Wash, and be clean**'?"

Acts 22:16 ESV

And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.'