

Heed God 's Word

In 2 Kings 5 we learn that Naaman was the commander of the Syrian army and much appreciated by the King. He had earned the respect of many including the King. Naaman had leprosy and we learned that there are levels of Leprosy. Some were just milder which must be what he suffered from because he was still around people and not banished because he was so contagious. In pastor's sermon we learned about the little girl who was taken from Isreal to live in Syria to be the servant to the King's wife. Though they never mention her name, but she was instrumental in getting Naaman healed of leprosy. God often uses tiny, insignificant vessels to do His work. Naaman, who was a great leader at this point in history was given a letter by his king to take to Isreal to meet the man of God that was healing people. He took with him men, chariots, money and changes of clothing. When he got to Elisha's house, Elisha sent a messenger out to tell Naaman that he should go wash in the river of Jordan seven times and his flesh would be restored and clean. Well, Naaman was angry. He came all that way to find out that the man of God could not even be bothered to come out and say a prayer over him. He stomped away ready to go home. Luckily for him, his servants and the people with him encouraged him to go to the river and try it. What have you got to lose? He asked "why is this river better than the ones in Syria? We have great rivers". But God didn't tell him to go wash in those rivers. So, he finally did go wash in the river Jordan 7 times as told to do. As he immerged from the river, he was clean and restored, with skin like that of a baby. Isn't that exciting? I love a miracle story, and the Bible is full of them.

But that's not why I brought this story up today. Today, I am thinking of myself. I am thinking how this has applied to my life in a totally different way. I am thinking of obedience. God has never told me to wash in a river 7 times. But there have been things that I fully knew God told me to do, that I did not do. Maybe I was upset that it wasn't the way I wanted to get my answer. Like dipping in a river. Maybe it was that I felt I should get more attention over this issue. Shouldn't someone come and make a big deal out of my problem and say a big, impressive prayer over me? Plead with God for restoration? But that is not what God was doing with Naaman. Yes, he was an important man, but God isn't about pomp and circumstance. God offered Naaman a chance to be healed in a very simple way. He didn't have to go thru chemo, or radiation. Of course, they didn't have that back

then but still, what an easy healing and Naaman almost missed it because he was arrogant. I have been arrogant. I have been disobedient. My guess is most of us have. God has clearly told me to do things in the past that I have not been very receptive about. I have not followed thru with joy but instead, gone my own way. When I did that, did I miss God's incredible blessing? Did I miss a healing? Did I miss restoration? I think it's safe to say I missed something big.

Lord, remind us today and every day that following you and your word always leads to a blessing. I want all of the blessings that you want to bestow on me. Fill my cup, Lord. Amen.

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