

SERMON NOTES:

Childlike Faith | Part 1: Open Hands, Ready Hearts | Message by: Tori VanderPloeg

BIG Idea: Childlike faith requires humility, surrender, and trust—even when life brings pride, process, and pain. True healing and transformation come when we open our hands and ready our hearts to receive from God.

Application: Let go of pride, trust God in the process, and allow Him to meet you in your pain. Like Naaman, take the step of obedience—even when it’s uncomfortable—because that’s where healing begins.

Matthew 18: 1–4 (NLT)

“About that time, the disciples came to Jesus and asked, ‘Who is greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven?’ Jesus called a little child to him and put the child among them. Then he said, ‘I tell you the truth, unless you turn from your sins and become like little children, you will never get into the Kingdom of Heaven. So anyone who becomes as humble as this little child is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven.’”

2 Kings 5:1 (ESV)

"Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Syria, was a great man with his master and in high favor, because by him the Lord had given victory to Syria. He was a mighty man of valor..."

...but he was a leper."

Status doesn't shield us from struggle.

2 Kings 5: 6-8 (ESV)

And he brought the letter to the king of Israel, which read, "When this letter reaches you, know that I have sent to you Naaman my servant, that you may cure him of his leprosy." 7 And when the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to kill and to make alive, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? Only consider, and see how he is seeking a quarrel with me."

2 Kings 5:10–12 (ESV)

"And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, 'Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored, and you shall be clean.' But Naaman was angry and went away, saying, 'Behold, I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call upon the name of the Lord his God, and wave his hand over the place and cure the leper. 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?' So he turned and went away in a rage."

He wasn't prepared to surrender to God's process.

Pride quietly fuels the struggle to embrace true childlike faith

1. Pride convinces us to keep pretending, even when it's not fine.
2. Pride convinces us to hide in plain sight, pretending everything's okay while our hearts grow distant from God.

Psalm 46:1 (NLT)

"God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble."

2 Kings 5:13–14 (ESV)

"But his servants came near and said to him, 'My father, it is a great word the prophet has spoken to you; will you not do it? Has he actually said to you, 'Wash, and be clean'?' So he went down and dipped himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God, and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean."

Pain doesn't just remind us of what hurts—it reminds us of what we can't heal on our own.

Matthew 11: 28–30 (MSG)

"Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly."

2 Kings 5: 2–3 (ESV)

"Now the Syrians on one of their raids had carried off a little girl from the land of Israel, and she worked in the service of Naaman's wife. She said to her mistress, 'Would that my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy.'"

Childlike Faith Requires us...

1. To surrender our plans for God's process.
2. To choose humility over pride.
3. To release our pain into His purpose.

Psalm 116: 6 -7 (NLT)

"The Lord protects those of childlike faith; I was facing death, and he saved me. Let my soul be at rest again, for the Lord has been good to me."

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