

With God

Part 6

“There is help for a God size problem”

2 Kings 5 NIV

Now Naaman was commander of the army of the king of Aram. He was a great man in the sight of his master and highly regarded, because through him the Lord had given victory to Aram. He was a valiant soldier, but he had leprosy.

2 Now bands of raiders from Aram had gone out and had taken captive a young girl from Israel, and she served Naaman’s wife. **3** She said to her mistress, “If only my master would see the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy.”

4 Naaman went to his master and told him what the girl from Israel had said. **5** “By all means, go,” the king of Aram replied. “I will send a letter to the king of Israel.” So Naaman left, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold and ten sets of clothing. **6** The letter that he took to the king of Israel read: “With this letter I am sending my servant Naaman to you so that you may cure him of his leprosy.”

7 As soon as the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his robes and said, “Am I God? Can I kill and bring back to life? Why does this fellow send someone to me to be cured of his leprosy? See how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me!”

8 When Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his robes, he sent him this message: “Why have you torn your robes? Have the man come to me and he will know that there is a prophet in Israel.” **9** So Naaman went with his horses and chariots and stopped at the door of Elisha’s house. **10** Elisha sent a messenger to say to him, “Go, wash yourself seven times in the Jordan, and your flesh will be restored and you will be cleansed.”

11 But Naaman went away angry and said, “I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, wave his hand over the spot and cure me of my leprosy. **12** Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Couldn’t I wash in them and be cleansed?” So he turned and went off in a rage.

13 Naaman's servants went to him and said, "My father, if the prophet had told you to do some great thing, would you not have done it? How much more, then, when he tells you, 'Wash and be cleansed'!" **14** So he went down and dipped himself in the Jordan seven times, as the man of God had told him, and his flesh was restored and became clean like that of a young boy.

15 Then Naaman and all his attendants went back to the man of God. He stood before him and said, "Now I know that there is no God in all the world except in Israel.

In the beginning of our text it tells us:

Naaman was a great leader...

He had accomplish many great things...

He was valiant soldier...

But he had a big problem... he had leprosy...

He had a condition that no one in his day could cure...

This is what I would call a God size problem...

Vs. 2,3

2 Now bands of raiders from Aram had gone out and had taken captive a young girl from Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. **3** She said to her mistress, "If only my master would see the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy."

This young girl is one of those unsung heroes of the Bible...

We don't even know her name but we do know she was used by God...

She was a captive.

She was a Servant of Naaman's wife.

She was used by God...

I believe she was a true Servant of God

Because:

#1 - She Served Others

#2 - She had Compassion

#3 - She had Courage

#4 - She had Faith

Her Faith was so contagious that Naaman went to his master and told him what the girl from Israel had said.

The King of Aram sends Naaman with a Letter to the King of Israel and ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold and ten sets of clothing.

All of this was Assumptions on the part of Naaman and the King of Aram... They Assumed this was an easy answer...

They Assumed the King of Israel had within his reach the ability to fix this God size problem that Naaman had...

Whenever you place a God size expectation on a person, that is a recipe for disappointment...

Vs. 7,8

As soon as the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his robes and said, "Am I God? Can I kill and bring back to life? Why does this fellow send someone to me to be cured of his leprosy? See how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me!"

8 When Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his robes, he sent him this message: "Why have you torn your robes? Have the man come to me and he will know that there is a prophet in Israel."

The King Associated with God
Elisha was an Associate of God's

- Someone who Associates - knows about them...
- But an Associate - knows them...

- The King of Israel was Associated with God
- Elisha was an Associate of God's

Story: How John Bevere got saved.

When John Bevere was in College someone asked him if he knew Jesus...

Then they asked him do you know him or just knew about him?...

John asked, what do you mean?

Then they asked John if he knew who the President of the United States was?

John knew all about the president (I believe it was Jimmy Carter at the time)... John knew where he came from... How old he was... What he stood for... When he was elected... and on and on...

Then the person said - So you know the President...

John said no not personally...

Then he realized there is a difference between knowing about Jesus and knowing Jesus...

The King knew about God

Elisha knew God

Because Elisha knew God, he knew God's voice...

I believe God had already spoken to Elisha that Naaman was coming and what he was to do...

Vs. 9-11

9 So Naaman went with his horses and chariots and stopped at the door of Elisha's house. **10** Elisha sent a messenger to say to him, "Go, wash yourself seven times in the Jordan, and your flesh will be restored and you will be cleansed."

11 But Naaman went away angry and said, "I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, wave his hand over the spot and cure me of my leprosy. **12** Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Couldn't I wash in them and be cleansed?" So he turned and went off in a rage.

- Naaman was looking for the Prophet but got the Prophet's Assistant...
- Naaman was looking for a person to solve his God size problem and when it didn't look a certain way or go the way he expected it to go he was offended...

How often have expectation gotten in the way of a miracle or hoping that people can do for us what really only God can do...

There may be a God size problem in our life... in our family... in our marriage... in our heart... and we look to a person in hopes that they can "come out and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, wave his hand over the spot and cure the problem."

When God removes people from your circumstance it's because he doesn't want you looking to anyone but Him...

I believe this is just the way God wanted it for Naaman...

God wanted to reveal himself to Naaman, not another person...

Naaman got caught up in the Method and almost lost the Message...

Wednesday Night in Prayer the Lord reminded me

There are some burdens I never meant for you to carry...

So we bring them to Jesus...

We put them at his feet...

Then he lifts them off of us...

Isn't that what Jesus meant when he said come unto me all you who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest. *Matthew 11:28*

And Cast all your cares upon him for he cares for you... *1 Peter 5:7*

- That was a good reminder for me and maybe for someone else today...
- It's good to be reminded He is the Savior, not us...
- Not that this excuses us from caring or having compassion for those around us.

Galatians 6:2

Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

This broken down means: Help or assist each other in the troubles you face and so fulfill the law of Christ to love one another even as Christ loves you...

But friend:

There are some things we can't fix... but God can

There are weights we can't lift... but God can

There are problems we can't solve... but God can

We are like Naaman's servants who assist in bringing people to Jesus...

This is what we are clearly called to do:

Hebrews 10:24,25

"And let us consider how we may **spur one another on toward love and good deeds**, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but **encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.**"

1 Thessalonians 5:11

"Therefore **comfort and edify each other**, just as in fact you are doing."

1 Timothy 4:12

"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but **set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.**"

If Elisha had waved his hand over Naaman and done all those things, Naaman might have thought Elisha was the answer...
But Elisha didn't do that...

Elisha brought a word from God...

Tell Naaman to go dip in the Jordan seven times...

Naaman never even got to see Elisha's face...

Naaman had to trust what he heard not what he saw if he was going to get a miracle from God...

Vs. 13-15

13 Naaman's servants went to him and said, "My father, if the prophet had told you to do some great thing, would you not have done it? How much more, then, when he tells you, 'Wash and be cleansed'!"

What Naaman's servant was saying was:

Sir if you want to get better, you're gonna have to get in the water yourself...

We can care for you...

We can pray for you...

We can bring you to the water...

But we can't do it for you...

14 So he went down and dipped himself in the Jordan seven times, as the man of God had told him, and his flesh was restored and became clean like that of a young boy.

15 Then Naaman and all his attendants went back to the man of God. He stood before him and said, “Now I know that there is no God in all the world except in Israel.

Naaman didn't need an introduction to Elisha nearly as much as he needed an introduction to the God of Israel...

Then Naaman knew there was a God in Israel...

There are some things man can't fix...

With Man Naaman's condition was impossible...

But with God there is help for a God sized problem