

Good News B.C. Jason Shawa "The Good News Message in Our Suffering" February 18, 2024

Key Verses: 2 Kings 5:1-19

Key Thought: God can use our suffering as a catalyst to lead us to salvation.

Points to Consider:

- Suffering is universal and inevitable.
- While it can be easy to lose sight of God's grace when we are suffering, this passage shows us that God can use our suffering to lead us to Himself and to bless us.
- The "good news" refers to the salvation that Jesus Christ offers to a broken world.
- Although Naaman was a celebrated warrior and leader, he suffered from the disease of leprosy (which was especially devastating in those days). Naaman's physical condition reflects our spiritual condition. → We have to understand our need. Before God cleanses us, we are sinners who are separated from Him. Although we might have many other blessings, none can compensate for the devastation of our condition.
- Naaman's *desperation* and the little girl's *declaration* point to our remedy. → We need to know the remedy, which is found in the spiritual and (eventual) physical healing that God offers us through Christ.
- Naaman reminds us that we must take initiative to respond to God, and that we will need a willing and humble heart. ← Despite his wounded pride, Naaman continued to take steps of faith.
- Naaman was healed, became a dedicated worshiper of God, and received peace. > We will take part in the results of God's salvation!
- God is waiting for you to let your suffering become a catalyst that leads you to Him.

Discussion Prompts:

- Describe suffering that you have experienced or are experiencing.
- What impact did your suffering have on your relationship with God?
- How has Naaman's physical condition been a reflection of your spiritual condition?
- To what degree have you experienced the healing that God offers through Christ? Explain.
- Are there steps of faith that you need to take to experience further cleansing and/or sanctification?
- Where do you need a willing and humble heart to respond to God?
- Close in prayer for one another—with confidence in the One who heals!