

2 Kings 5

Humility

- **Elisha's miracles so far...**
 1. Parting of the Jordan
 2. Healing waters with **salt**
 3. Filling valley w/ **water**
 4. Filling empty vessels with **oil**
 5. Resurrection of the Shunammite's son
 6. Healing of stew with flour
 7. Multiplying of **Bread** in Ch. 4

OT Physical Representation of a NT Truth; **Salt, Water, Oil, Bread now Leprosy**

I. Naaman: Reconciliation through Humility

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.**

- **Naaman**
 1. Commander of Army of Syria
 2. Great man
 3. Honorable man
 4. God gave Syria great victory because of Naaman?
 5. Mighty man of valor

...but a leper

- **Leprosy/Hansen's Disease:** Picture of Sin

Def. Contagious disease that affects the skin, mucous membranes, and nerves, causing discoloration and lumps on the skin and, in severe cases, disfigurement and deformities.

Physical Characteristics

1. **Small beginning:** Small lesions eventual massive skin deterioration...death?
2. **Contagious to others:** Spreads through
3. **Causes separation:** Person is Quarantined
4. **Leads to numbness:** Inability to feel leading to further injury

Spiritual Application of Leprosy as Sin

- **Small beginning:** Just a little comprise

Proverbs 6:27 Can a man take fire to his bosom, And his clothes not be burned? 28 Can one walk on hot coals, And his feet **not be seared?**

James 1:14 But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. 15 Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-

grown, brings forth death.

- Small Beginnings, Next Sin is...
- **Contagious:** Affects/Infects watching world.
 1. Divorce
 2. Sexual Sin
 3. Gossip/Arrogance: "I thought you were a Christian"

1 Corinthians 5:6 A little leaven leavens the whole lump.

- Yeast spreads by fermentation; i.e. corruption
- Sin spreads through corruption through contact if not dealt with...e.g. Canaanites

Heavy, heavy accountability for leading someone astray...

Luke 1:1b... "It is impossible that no offenses should come, but woe to him through whom they do come! 2 It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones. [George Soros betraying his own Jewish people to Nazis "If it wasn't me it would have been someone else"]

- Small Beginnings, Contagious. Third...
- **Sin causes Separation...from God**

Isaiah 59:1 Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear. 2 But your **iniquities [sins] have separated you from your God;** And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear.

- Small Beginnings, Contagious, Causes Separation...lastly continued sin...
- **Leads to numbness:** Inability to hear God's voice

Dying in this state is the only Unpardonable sin
Continued sin and rejection/denial of, trifling with the truth till death

2 Thessalonians 2:9 [The AC will be able to deceive...] those who perish, because they did not receive the **love of the truth**, that they might be saved.

Leprosy in Relation to Sin

Starts small, Contagious, Separation, Numbness: Bad Consequences if not dealt with

Syrian's would raid God's People previously and after the story of Naaman
Naaman the Leper was an enemy of God and His people.

- We are born enemies of God and his people because of original sin

Our federal/representative Adam was infected with sin...and we all got it

Romans 5:12 ... through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus **death spread to all men**, because all sinned—

1 Corinthians 14:22 ...in Adam all die

We are born enemies of God; answers Q "What in the world is going on?"

Colossians 1:21 And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works...

We are all born separated/alienated from God; enemies of God because of Sin

Naaman was an enemy of God because he was an enemy of God's people Israel

- Saul, Saul why do you persecute Me?

2 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."

▪ **Syrians raid Israel:**

1. Bring back young girl
2. Becomes servant of Naaman's wife
3. Told Naaman's wife God can heal him

4 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."

- **I'll make provision for you to go to Israel:** God's provision through Pagan King

5b... So he departed and took with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten changes of clothing.

- **Naaman Takes Gifts:** Silver/Gold/Clothing

6 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."

This guy wants to start another fight with us

8 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."

Elisha to King of Israel: Why didn't you think God can do this?

9 Then Naaman went with his horses and chariot, and **he stood at the door**

of Elisha's house. 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 in Israel standing at Elisha's front door
- **Elisha sends servant...**
 1. Wash in Jordan River Seven Times
 2. Be healed completely

That's it.

- Jesus told the blind man he needed to be washed in order to see...

John 9:7 And He said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which is translated, Sent). So he went and washed, and came back seeing.

11 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?"

- **Furious at God's Plan for Restoration?**
 1. Elisha didn't cry out to his God
 2. Elisha didn't wave of hands...instead
 3. Elisha sent someone else

I could have stayed home...

12b... So [Naaman] turned and **went away in a rage.**

Naaman was enraged. Offensive to say I need a bath.

- Gospel is offense to man's pride
- Cross in an offense to man's perceived goodness
- Jesus is an offense to man's self-importance

1 Corinthians 1:18 ... the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

13 And [Naaman's] 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?**'"

- **Thank God for Good friends:** They convince Naaman with great council
 1. **Respect:** My father

- 2. **Logic** What do you have to lose?
- 3. **Motivation:** It's easy
- 4. **Love** They Loved him

**If you're right and this is just a waste of time...so what?
If you are wrong...you will be healed! Worth a try! Take a bath.**

- Naaman swallows his pride, perceived goodness, self-importance... the chance healed

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.

- **Humbled Himself. Washed...And he was Clean!**

1. Long moment to think it though
2. Long humbling walk to the beach and into the water
3. Long look around before going under 1st time
4. Humbling continues each after each dunk
5. After Seven a long look at what he had dreamed about for years
6. Skin of a baby...Naaman humbled himself and was 100% clean

What a promise to us...to be Clean

2 Corinthians 7:1 let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

- **Washed by the Word to Salvation:** Word we heard and believed
- **Washed by the Word in Sanctification:** Word that continues to cleanse us...

Ephesians 5:26 [Jesus and cleanses His bride the church] with the washing of water by the word, 27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

- **Word washes us to prepare us for our purpose**

2 Timothy 2:21 Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.

- **What makes us unclean? Why do we need a bath?**

1. **Original Sin:** Adamic nature
2. **Daily Sin:** I need to wash your feet...Pete
3. **Demonic Influence:** Unclean Spirits

- **What makes us clean?**

- Word, Blood, Repentance; What Jesus said and what Jesus did

**We cleanse ourselves by embracing the Words of Jesus
I.e. Hear, believe and Do**

John 15:3 You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.

Psalms 119:9 How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word.

- **Jesus blood cleanses our conscience**...for service to God

Hebrews 9:14 ...[The] blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, [will] cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

- **Jesus blood cleanses us from the filth/shame of sin...**

1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the **blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.**

- Jesus Word/Blood cleanses us completely as we repent

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to **cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

**Naaman was Cleansed. Skin like a baby
Heeded good loving council...humbled himself and was cleansed**

15 And [Naaman] returned to the man of God, he and all his aides, and came and stood before him; and he said, "Indeed, now I know that there is **no God in all the earth, except in Israel...**

- Naaman would become **famous** 500 years later
- Naaman's name would make the religious **furious**

Luke 4:27 [Read] And many lepers were in Israel in the time of Elisha the prophet, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian." 28 So all those in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath, 29 and rose up and thrust Him out of the city; and they led Him to the brow of the hill on which their city was built, that they might throw Him down over the cliff. 30 Then passing through the midst of them, He went His way.

- Religious had read of Naaman in their OT
- Why were the religious furious at Jesus mention of Naaman?
 1. Not a Jew; not one of the in-crowd...a Gentile
 2. Shown God's favor without keeping God's Law; Cleansed anyway
 3. Former enemy of God/God's people now Gave glory to God of Israel

There is no God in all the earth, except in Israel...

- Obeyed [as we did] simple instructions: Believe on Lord Jesus and be Saved
- Saved and Baptized at same time and had his mind blown...as we did!

15b...[Naaman speaking to Elisha] now therefore, please take a gift from your servant." 16 But he said, "As the Lord lives, before whom I stand, **I**

will receive nothing.” And he urged him to take it, but he refused.

- **Saved by grace:** Gift of God

Romans 6:23 ...the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- **If Elisha received the gift** from Naaman the healing would no longer be of grace

If we pay for something it is no longer a gift

Romans 4:4 Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt.

- **God is a debtor to no one...**

Romans 11:6 And [Salvation is] by grace, then it is no longer of works; otherwise grace is no longer grace. But if [Salvation] is of works, it is no longer grace; otherwise work is no longer work...**35** “Or [Paraphrase] who has first given to God that God should have to repay?”

I will receive nothing...your cleansing is a gift from God
If we don't know this we are neither cleansed not saved

- All/Every Religion is like dressing up a pig. Put your best suit on but still a pig.
- Jesus both cleanses/changes those who humbly come to Him
 1. Sinner to Saint
 2. Degenerate to Regenerated
 3. Darkness to Light
 4. Death to Life
 5. Enemy of God to friend of God

Naaman asks a request of Elisha...

17 So Naaman said, “Then, if not, please let your servant be given two mule-loads of earth; for your servant will **no longer offer** either burnt offering or sacrifice to other gods, but to the Lord.

- **Beautiful Repentance:**

1. I will no longer _____?
2. I will serve the LORD [YHWH]

18 Yet in this thing may the Lord pardon your servant: when my master goes into the temple of Rimmon to worship there, and he leans on my hand, and I bow down in the temple of Rimmon—when I bow down in the temple of Rimmon, may the Lord **please pardon your servant in this thing.**”

- Can I bow with the King in the temple of false-gods if I don't worship?

19 Then he said to him, “Go in peace.” So he departed from him a short distance.

- **Elisha:** Not “yes of no” but go in peace:
 1. Your walk begins
 2. Your relationship begins

**Your working out your own salvation/asking hard questions begins
“Is this okay LORD? Does it fall under loving others and seeing them saved?”**

- Go in peace...You figure it out. You go to His Word. You go to prayer. Do He says
- Work out your Salvation; not work for your salvation.

Philippians 2:12...work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; 13 for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

- **Syrian Commander Naaman: Leper**
 1. **Physical Healing:** Skin as smooth as baby
 2. **Spiritual Healing:** Sin’s forgiven

**OT Paints a Picture of NT Spiritual Truth
When God paints spiritual pictures... He does not want them messed with**

- **Moses told to strike the rock for water.** Next, Moses told to speak to rock but struck it:
 1. **Picture:** Christ one-time sacrifice was sufficient for our Salvation
 2. **Consequence for messing up picture?** Moses not allowed in Promise Land
- **2 Kings 5: God Paints another picture:** Salvation is a free gift. After Naaman is healed...

2 Kings 5:15 [Naaman]...returned to the man of God, he and **all his aides**, and came and stood before him; and he said, “Indeed, now I know that there is no God in all the earth, except in Israel; now therefore, please take a gift from your servant.” 16 But he said, “As the Lord lives, before whom I stand, **I will receive nothing.**” And he urged him to take it, but he refused.

Elisha would not accept anything for the healing of Naaman

II. Gehazi’s Messes with God’s Picture: Misrepresenting God’s Heart
20 **But Gehazi**, the servant of Elisha the man of God, said, “Look, my master has spared **Naaman this Syrian**, while not receiving from his hands what he brought; but as the Lord lives, **I will run after him** and take something from him.”

Naaman’s sin was pride. Gahazi’s sin is Greed

- **But Gahazi...** Danger Will Robinson: I will take something from him
- A man intent on sin begins with **justification...**
 1. **I’m helping:** Naaman went through trouble of bringing gifts
 2. **Dehumanize the victim:** He’s only “a Syrian” v20

3. **Not counting cost:** What could it hurt?

Gahazi didn't see/understand big picture: Salvation is a free gift; picture for all generations.
No excuse...we do what God asks because **He sees/understands the big picture**

Isaiah 55:8 "For **My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,**" says the Lord. 9 "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts."

- We don't mess with God's Word...at all. Even if we don't understand it...

Revelation 22:18 [Jesus] If anyone **adds to** these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; 19 and if anyone **takes away** from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

- **Don't add/take away from God's Word:** Not only the Book of Revelation...

Deuteronomy 4:2 You shall **not add to the word** which I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you.

Deuteronomy 12:32 "Whatever I command you, be careful to observe it; you **shall not add** to it nor take away from it."

Proverbs 30:6 **Do not add to His words,** Lest He rebuke you, and you be found a liar.

- **Book of Mormon:** Another Gospel...not.

**We are not to mess with God's Word...at all.
Even if we don't understand it...don't like what it says**

- Gahazi heard word Lord from Elisha to Naaman: **I will take nothing for your healing**
- **But Gahazi...**did what **he believed** to be right. Won't end well...

Proverbs 14:11 There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the **way of death.**

21 So Gehazi pursued Naaman. When Naaman saw him running after him, he got down from the chariot to meet him, and said, "**Is all well?**"

- Gladness/excitement in voice...**joy of a New Believer**

22 And [Gahazi] said, "All is well. **My master has sent** me, saying, 'Indeed, just now two young men of the sons of the prophets have come to me from the mountains of Ephraim. Please give them a talent of silver and two changes of garments.' "

- **Sin like leprosy:**

1. **Begins small:** Justification

- Naaman has gifts: I can take them off his hands
- Just a Syrian

- What could it hurt? Just my little sin
2. **Contagious:** Affects/Infects others.
 - Naaman is confused
 - Elisha and Sons of Prophets drawn in/lied about
 3. **Separation:**
 - Gahazi left Word of God when he left Elisha/did not heed his words
 - What we do when we are intent on sinning. No reading. No church.
 4. **Numbness:**
 - Able to lie to newly saved Naaman
 - Uncaring, unloving, selfish and driven

Unashamed: Blinded by Greed...Desensitized by sin and want

23 So Naaman said, "Please, take two talents." And he urged him, and bound two talents of silver in two bags, with two changes of garments, and handed them to two of his servants; and they carried them on ahead of him. 24 When he came to the citadel, he took them from their hand, and stored them away in the house; then he let the men go, and they departed.

- **Naaman gives Gahazi...**
 1. 420 lbs. of silver
 2. Two changes of clothing

- **Hands them to his servants!**

Gahazi's servants now tangled up in his mess

- Gets home/hides stuff in his house/leaves servants with a secret

25 Now he went in and stood before his master. Elisha said to him, "Where did you go, Gehazi?" And he said, "Your servant did not go anywhere."

- Stands before Elisha as if nothing happened

Q. Where did you go? A. I didn't go anywhere

Psalm 139:7 [David] Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? ⁸If I ascend into heaven, You *are* there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You *are there*. ⁹If I take the wings of the morning, *And* dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,¹⁰ Even there Your hand shall lead me, And Your right hand shall hold me.¹¹ If I say, "Surely the darkness shall fall on me," Even the night shall be light about me;¹² Indeed, the darkness shall not hide from You, But the night shines as the day; **The darkness and the light are both alike to You.**

**Fear of God is the realization/awareness/recognition that God is always present
Gahazi did not have the fear of God...but he's about to get it...**

26 Then [Elisha] said to [Gahazi], "Did not my heart go with you when the man turned back from his chariot to meet you? Is it time to receive money and to receive clothing, olive groves and vineyards, sheep and oxen, male and female servants?"

Numbers 32:23b...you have sinned against the Lord; be sure your sin will find you out.

- **Gahazi heart exposed:** Clothing, Olive Groves, Animals and Servants what he hoped
- **Elisha heart exposed:** Heart of a Shepherd...

Really...Did you immediately seek to stumble this young believer?

Luke 17:2 It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones.

- **Don't mess with My new son:** Cults who prey on new believer...Danger
- **Don't mess with My picture:** Salvation as a free gift of My Grace

27 Therefore the leprosy of Naaman shall cling to you and your descendants forever." And he went out from his presence leprous, as white as snow.

Starts out small...

Justification led to Falsification and eventual horrific Ramifications

It is a Big Deal to misrepresent God's Heart!

- **Moses misrepresented God** striking rock a 2nd time instead of speaking to it
- *Unknowingly Moses implied Jesus single sacrifice wasn't sufficient.*
- **Consequences:** Not able to enter Promised Land

- **Gahazi misrepresented God** by asking Naaman for gifts
- *Unknowingly implied there was a price we must pay for Salvation*
- **Consequences:** Leprosy on him and descendants

Neither knew the manifold implications/repercussions of their disobedience

Both none the less suffered severe [but just] consequences for misrepresenting God's Heart

- **Application: How can we misrepresent Jesus Heart?**
- **God is both Love and Truth:** Never one without the other...

John 1:17b...but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ

We misrepresent God when we distort Genuine Love/Straight Forward Truth

- **Overbearing Truth**
 1. Speaking when we should be listening: Hear ourselves talk
 2. Talking down and trying to fix. Treat people as projects
 3. Apathetic to peoples hurts/struggles

4. Wanting to be right instead of being righteous

▪ **Oowee-Gooley sickening sweet Love**

1. Not speaking when Spirit says "Now!"
2. Seeking to please people not God
3. Agreeing with what we know is not true
4. Wanting to be commended by men instead of "Well done good and faithful..."

We misrepresent God when we misrepresent Love and Truth

We represent God properly when we walk in Genuine Love/Straight forward Truth

"Truth without love is brutality, and love without truth is hypocrisy." [Warren Wiersbe]

- **Heart of God is both Love and Truth...** Never one w/out other/not out of balance

SUMMARY Gahazi Messes with God's Picture: Just do what God says. He sees the Big Picture