

the unexpected.

what's with miracles?

"THE UNEXPECTED" WEEK 2 NOTES APRIL 16

KEY THOUGHTS

- As we look at "What's with the miraculous?", today's issue is How much emphasis should we put on the miraculous?"
- Our desire is to be driven and shaped by Scripture – all of it. That means we need to take Biblical texts in context, and shaped by the continuity uniformity of it in it's entirety.
- 2 Kings 5:1-14 is the story of the healing of Naaman the leper by the prophet Elisha.
- Verse 10 shows how Elisha was very unspectacular in the way this healing would go down. Nothing showy, nothing noteworthy.
- Verses 11-12 reveal Naaman was furious because he wanted there to be "some great thing." Naaman could have what he wanted, just not in the way that he wanted it. Because of pride, he almost missed his healing.
- As we saw last week, miracles are signs which speak messages – what is the message from this healing? There is this tension with the miraculous:
- God's solution might not be something spectacular. God may have us do some hard work on our "fix", or He may want us to see a counselor, or it might be a slow process to work through some relationship issues. We tend to downplay the unspectacular, but God doesn't.
- And here is the tension: While God's solution might not be something spectacular, it very well might be.
- Jesus referred to the healing of Naaman in Luke 4:27. In the context, Jesus was talking to a people who wouldn't believe in Jesus unless they would see a miraculous sign.
- Jesus' reference to Naaman here is in the teaching that it's by God's choosing that some receive miracles, and some don't. He may or may not work a miracle, but don't count Him out.
- Here are our takeaways:
- Trust fully. He is infinitely loving and powerful.
- God knows. He also is infinitely wise.
- It's His story. He may or may not bring a miracle. But it's His story, and it's a beautiful story in the midst of the pain, miracle or not.
- And with Jesus' first heartbeat, His first breath, all those were put back in play!
- The resurrection is a message: He loves you boundlessly, sacrificed for you beyond imagination, and sufficiently restores you if you'll just open your life and surrender to what He has for you.

SCRIPTURES

- 2 Kings 5:1-14
- Luke 4:14-27

PRACTICAL & REFLECTION

- Is there a hopeless situation in my life in which I have written God off?
- Do I trust God enough to work in my life in the way that is best? Do I require it to be a spectacular solution, or am I satisfied with God working His story in me in whatever way He wishes?