



I have noticed that God seems to either ask too much or not enough – never 'just right'?

"Impossible is one of God's favorite words – it makes Him smile!"

1 Now Naaman, captain of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man with his master, and highly respected, because by him the LORD had given victory to Aram. The man was also a valiant warrior, but he was a leper.

2 Now the Arameans had gone out in bands and had taken captive a little girl from the land of Israel; and she waited on Naaman's wife.

3 She said to her mistress, "I wish that my master were with the prophet who is in Samaria! Then he would cure him of his leprosy."

Unlikely Resource 1-3

- Naaman was a great man did not spare hime
- Naaman had leprosy death sentence
- Syrian raids brought back Jewish girl servant
- · How does she have merciful attitude? Jonah?
- Her misfortunes had not robbed her of faith!



"What is impossible with man is possible with God." Luke 18:27

4 Naaman went in and told his master, saying, "Thus and thus spoke the girl who is from the land of Israel."

5 Then the king of Aram said, "Go now, and I will send a letter to the king of Israel." He departed and took with him ten talents of silver and six thousand shekels of gold and ten changes of clothes.

6 He brought the letter to the king of Israel, saying, "And now as this letter comes to you, behold, I have sent Naaman my servant to you, that you may cure him of his leprosy."

7 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 is sending word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? But consider now, and see how he is seeking a quarrel against me."

Likely Resource 4-7

- Men of the World follow worldly protocols
- Biblical model is not Worldly model!
- · 'You cannot stand on a pedestal and wash feet'
- King to King was not the answer King of Kings!

"We don't need to understand God's plans – we need to trust His character!"

8 It happened when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, that he sent word to the king, saying, "Why have you torn your clothes? Now let him come to me, and he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel."

9 So Naaman came with his horses and his chariots and stood at the doorway of the house of Elisha.

10 Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh will be restored to you and you will be clean."

Unlikely Resolution 8-10

- Elisha asks for the hard task Elijah's words!
- Naaman came with whole entourage showy!
- Elisha sent a servant with memo

"Walking through the valley of Death – I am following the footprints of the fearless."

11 But Naaman was furious and went away and said, "Behold, I thought, '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 cure the leper.'

12 Are not Abanah 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.

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13 Then his servants came near and spoke to him and said, "My father, had the prophet told you to do some great thing, would you not have done it? How much more then, when he says to you, 'Wash, and be clean'?"

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14 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.

Likely Response 11-14

- Naaman was offended
- No place is skin thinner than at Church!
- If God asks too much we balk
- If God asks too little we scoff

"Within the Scripture, there is a balm for every wound, a salve for every sore." C.H. Spurgeon

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15 When he returned to the man of God with all his company, and came and stood before him, he said, "Behold now, I know that there is no God in all the earth, but in Israel; so please take a present from your servant now."

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16 But he said, "As the LORD lives, before whom I stand, I will take nothing." And he urged him to take it, but he refused.

17 Naaman said, "If not, please let your servant at least be given two mules' load of earth; for your servant will no longer offer burnt offering nor will he sacrifice to other gods, but to the LORD.

18 In this matter may the LORD pardon your servant: when my master goes into the house of Rimmon to worship there, and he leans on my hand and I bow myself in the house of Rimmon, when I bow myself in the house of Rimmon, the LORD pardon your servant in this matter."

19 He said to him, "Go in peace." So he departed from him some distance.

Unlikely Response 15-19

- Please let me say thanks!
- God is not for sale! Simon the sorcerer
- Take back some of Israel to stand on —
- Anticipating conflicts in pagan temples
- Elisha did not change everything on first day



"We don't rise to God's level— He rises to the level of our needs."

It seems too easy – it seems too hard!

- Make up your mind!
- Make up your mind to accept
- Make up your mind to obey
- God will not call you to something He will not equip and empower you to accomplish!

"There is tremendous relief in knowing that His love is based on every point on prior knowledge of the worst about me." J.I. Packer

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