

“HEALING THROUGH HUMBLING”

2 Kings Chapter 5

> **In chapter 5 of Second Kings we find “SEVEN CHARACTERS”:**

- #1 – Naaman – a Syrian military commander inflicted with leprosy.**
- #2 – A young Israeli girl, a captive made a slave, serving Naaman’s wife.**
- #3 – Naaman’s wife.**
- #4 – Elisha, the Prophet of God.**
- #5 – The King of Syria.**
- #6 – The servants of Naaman.**
- #7 – Gehazi, the servant of Naaman.**

> **In this chapter we will experience the POWER OF GOD and the HUMBLING OF MAN, on display will be *healing through humbling*.**

(v1) Naaman is a victorious commander of the Syrian military, he is an honorable man, a mighty man of valor (notice the fine print, “*the LORD had given victory to Syria*”); and he is stricken with the horrible disease of LEPROSY.

(What is *Leprosy*? - This disease "begins with specks on the eyelids and on the palms, gradually spreading over the body, bleaching the hair white wherever they appear, crusting the affected parts with white scales, and causing terrible sores and swellings. From the skin the disease eats inward to the bones, rotting the whole body piecemeal." "In Christ's day no leper could live in a walled town, though he might in an open village. But wherever he was he was required to have his outer garment rent as a sign of deep grief, to go bareheaded, and to cover his beard with his mantle, as if in lamentation at his own virtual death. He had further to warn passers-by to keep away from him, by calling out, 'Unclean! unclean!' nor could he speak to any one, or receive or return a salutation, since in the East this involves an embrace." Leprosy was "the outward and visible sign of the innermost spiritual corruption; a meet emblem in its small beginnings, its gradual spread, its internal disfigurement, its dissolution little by little of the whole body, of that which corrupts, degrades, and defiles man's inner nature, and renders him unmeet to enter the presence of a pure and holy God" (Maclear's Handbook O.T). Our Lord cured lepers (Matthew 8:2,3; Mark 1:40-42). This divine power so manifested illustrates his gracious dealings with men in curing the leprosy of the soul, the fatal taint of sin. This disease was regarded as an awful punishment from the Lord (2 Kings 5:7; 2 Chronicles 26:20). (See MIRIAM; GEHAZI; UZZIAH.) (from Easton's Bible Dictionary)

(v2-3) (a) Here is the Israeli servant girl, a captive, prisoner in a foreign land, yet she is loving, helpful, and a light to the unsaved! This young girl was intuitive; she recognized or was able to know a true prophet of God, that is, Elisha (her parents taught her well).

(b) We also notice that Naaman’s wife was a HELP-MATE in delivering this information to her husband.

(v4-6) It appears that the King of Syria was caring, kind and generous.

(v7) Whereas, the King of Israel was emotional, reactionary, not compassionate, and assumed a quarrel.

(v8-10) Elisha is a man of compassion, action, and proclamation.

(v11-12) Naaman is demanding, furious (lacks self-control), prideful, arrogant and very ill. (Paul and sickness 2 Corinthians 12:5-10)

(v13) Naaman's SERVANTS know humility and obedience, their position in life became an admonition for Naaman. (Peter gives testimony to HUMILITY in 1 Peter 5:5-11 - Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble." Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you. Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world. But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you. To Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.)

(v14-15) Here Naaman humbles himself and follows the Word of God from the man of God; he ACKNOWLEDGES (worships) the God of Israel and is THANKFUL! (cp. - Luke 17:11-17)

(v17-18) Naaman wants to WORSHIP THE LORD! He also asks for a "pardon from the LORD" if in his service to the King of Syria he has to enter the Temple of Rimmon (A Syrian god whose temple was at Damascus. Rimmon was the god of rain and storm, lightning and thunder.)

(v19) Elisha responds "GO IN PEACE."

(v20-24) Here we have the sins Gehazi, the servant of the man of God, we see: greed, covetousness, lying, misrepresentation of Elisha.

(v25-27) Elisha has a gift of knowledge regarding Gehazi's sin, Elisha is a man of integrity and righteousness. Gehazi reaps the consequence of sin and so does his family, leprosy shall cling to his descendants forever!

> Live for God, serve Christ, worship the Lord, stay in His Word, proclaim His salvation, run from sin, be BLESSED!