

The Simple Step*

2 Kings 5:1-17 BSB

2 Kings 5:1 - Now Naaman, the commander of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man in his master's sight and highly regarded, for through him the LORD had given victory to Aram. And he was a mighty man of valor, but he was a leper.

Despite all his stature, accomplishments, and high favor, he had a problem none of that could fix. Naaman had an asterisk.

- Asterisks often follow a statement, as a disclaimer that everything's not quite as good as it seems at first glance. There's fine print.

Life is great!*

**except for this one thing*

- Have you ever felt like that?

Despite your success, talents, or knowledge, at some point there will be something your own strength and ability cannot solve.

- Maybe a chronic illness like Naaman, a financial burden you can't get out of, an emotional wound that's never healed. What's the disclaimer that you think of when everything else is going great? What's the thing making it hard to see how good God has been in your life?

How do you deal with an asterisk?

2At this time the Arameans had gone out in bands and had taken a young girl from the land of Israel, and she was serving Naaman's wife. 3She said to her mistress, "If only my master would go to the prophet who is in Samaria, he would cure him of his leprosy."

1.) RENEW YOUR PERSPECTIVE

Sometimes we get so comfortable with our asterisk that we have attached it to our identity. We have settled into it.

Maybe we've given up hope that healing or a change in your situation is even possible.

YOU NEED TO BE REMINDED THAT THE GOD OF ISRAEL IS STILL HEALING TODAY. HE'S STILL DOING MIRACLES.

You don't have to live a life defined by the asterisk

- *Side note lesson from the slave girl - If you let yourself be consumed by bitterness or make yourself a victim of your circumstances, you miss how God wants to use you in your unfair circumstance to be a vessel to make His glory known*

4And Naaman went and told his master what the girl from the land of Israel had said. 5“Go now,” said the king of Aram, “and I will send you with a letter to the king of Israel.”

So Naaman departed, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten sets of clothing. 6And the letter that he took to the king of Israel stated: “With this letter I am sending my servant Naaman, so that you may cure him of his leprosy.” 7When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and asked, “Am I God, killing and giving life, that this man expects me to cure a leper? Surely you can see that he is seeking a quarrel with me!”

8Now when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent a message to the king: “Why have you torn your clothes? Please let the man come to me, and he will know that there is a prophet in Israel.”

The king of Aram sends him to the king of Israel, likely assuming that if there is a prophet, he must be in the service of the king. That's an understandable assumption, because the prophets of false gods at the time would just tell the kings whatever they wanted to hear. But Elisha was not a prophet that answered to an earthly king, he was a prophet that was informed and led by the Spirit of God.

2.) SEEK THE HOLY SPIRIT

You may have looked at other options, you may had the assumptions that you knew where the get the answers. I know there's other prophets out there, other options you can go to, but this is a problem not just anyone can solve, I need the Spirit of the Living God.

This is a mountain that can only be moved by the same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead. I've got to seek Him and find His answers.

9So Naaman came with his horses and chariots and stood at the door of Elisha's house. 10Then Elisha sent him a messenger, who said, “Go and wash yourself seven times in the Jordan, and your flesh will be restored, and you will be clean.”

11But Naaman went away angry, saying, “I thought that he would surely come out, stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, and wave his hand over the spot to cure my leprosy. 12Are not the Abanah and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not have washed in them and been cleansed?” So he turned and went away in a rage.

How often do we find ourselves in the same place as Naaman? We want a quick fix to the problem; for God to just wave His hand over it and it to go away in a moment.

But we have to be careful not to get caught in the discouragement of “I thought that...” expectations.

You might find that you’ve been letting your unmet expectation speak louder than God’s instruction.

Naaman didn’t receive healing, he received instructions.

13Naaman’s servants, however, approached him and said, “My father, if the prophet had told you to do some great thing, would you not have done it? How much more, then, when he tells you, ‘Wash and be cleansed’?”

3.) TAKE THE SIMPLE STEP

14So Naaman went down and dipped himself in the Jordan seven times, according to the word of the man of God, and his flesh was restored and became like that of a little child, and he was clean.

So many times we’re getting frustrated that God’s not miraculously changing our situation, or we’ve given up hope and settled into it...but God’s just looking for faith to take the simple step of obedience.

What if the solution to the asterisk you’ve been carrying is found on the other side of your obedience to just take the simple step God has given you?

What’s that simple step for you?

Sometimes simple steps require humbling ourselves to do something we don’t understand.

15Then Naaman and all his attendants went back to the man of God, stood before him, and declared, "Now I know for sure that there is no God in all the earth except in Israel. So please accept a gift from your servant." 16But Elisha replied, "As surely as the LORD lives, before whom I stand, I will not accept it." And although Naaman urged him to accept it, he refused. 17"If you will not," said Naaman, "please let me, your servant, be given as much soil as a pair of mules can carry. For your servant will never again make a burnt offering or a sacrifice to any other god but the LORD.

When I've got an unsolvable problem, an asterisk that I cannot remove, normally taking that simple step wouldn't get me anywhere...there is no reason that washing in a river should be able to cure a skin disease...he could've washed in a river at home and still came out with leprosy.

But when you have the direction of God and take that simple step in obedience to His instruction, sometimes it has miraculous implications, and it proves that there is a God in Heaven that is living and active...because I could not have gotten those results on my own.

Like Jesus' simple instruction to Peter (Mt 5:4-8) — don't despise what God can do off of a simple step of obedience.

Often we want the testimony of miracle moment, but have you been despising the testimony our God can build through a simple step? I wonder how many people in your life need to see the power and glory of God that's revealed in your obedience to the simple step

What if the testimony you need to carry back is that people see something's different in you, and you can say *"I just took a step where He led, and the Lord radically moved in my life and changed everything about my situation.."*

Naaman carrying back the soil was a recognition that Yahweh is sovereign not just over Israel, but over everything.

He's still healing, he's still giving breakthroughs, he's still working miracles...but even while we're waiting, He is sovereign in the place of our affliction

Even when there has been an asterisk on our life, there is no asterisk on our God's ability