

NAAMAN

2nd Kings 5:1-14

Let's see what we can learn from the case of Naaman.

I. CONSIDER THAT A GREAT MAN WAS HUMBLLED

A. 2nd Kings 5:1

He was "a great man", "also a mighty man of valor, but a *leper*".

B. Numbers 5:1-2

As a Syrian, he was not subject to the law of Moses, so he probably was not quarantined, but his leprosy was certainly a social disgrace, not to mention a life threatening illness.

C. Ecclesiastes 9:11

Chance befell him.

II. NOTICE HOW A CAPTIVE REGARDED HER MASTER

A. 2nd Kings 5:2-3

Imagine being stolen away from your homeland – at a young age, mind you – and **not** feeling resentment toward your captor. Imagine actually seeking out his best interest.

B. Romans 12:17-21

Vengeance is the prerogative of God alone.

C. 1st Timothy 6:1

Naaman had no reason to blaspheme God after meeting this Israelite.

D. Colossians 3:22-4:1

This girl wasn't insincere. If she was, she could have done her master's will without ever volunteering the information necessary for his cure.

III. OBSERVE WHAT FAITH AND WISDOM A YOUNG GIRL HAD

A. 2nd Kings 5:2-3

The word translated “*girl*” means a female from infancy to adolescence, and “*young*” is a diminutive, so this was no teenager, just a child, yet she was not afraid to defy the gods of Syria or inform such heathens of God’s power.

B. Matthew 21:14-16

Children are simple. Their thought processes are neither complicated nor corrupted. They know the truth when they see it and don’t hesitate to say so.

C. Ecclesiastes 4:13

One advantage of youth is that they’re not past learning.

D. Jeremiah 1:6-7

Youth must never be used as an excuse to stop one from speaking the truth.

IV. UNDERSTAND THAT ONE CANNOT BE CLEANSED BY GOING TO THE WRONG SOURCE

A. 2nd Kings 5:5-7

The little girl advised that her master should go to the prophet, but somewhere along the chain of communication he was sent to the king instead, who knew – rightly – that he could do nothing himself to heal Naaman.

B. Acts 4:12

Many go to the wrong source for cleansing from sin – the Pope, Joseph Smith, Buddha, Mohammed, etc. – but only Christ can save.

C. 1st Timothy 2:5

Christ is our only Mediator with the one and only God.

V. REALIZE THAT LEADERS CAN BE MISTAKEN

A. 2nd Kings 5:7

The king of Syria was mistaken in sending Naaman to the king of Israel, and the king of Israel was mistaken in not knowing what to do next, and assuming a quarrel was sought. He had every reason to know Elisha could heal the man, but he despaired faithlessly.

- B. **Acts 4:19-20; 5:29**
The Jewish leaders erred in reproving the apostles.
- C. **1st Timothy 5:19-20**
Elders in the church might sin.
- D. **Galatians 2:11**
The apostle Peter was withstood for his error.

VI. RECOGNIZE THAT ACTIONS PROVE IDENTITY

- A. **2nd Kings 5:8**
By going to Elisha and being healed, Naaman would know there was a prophet in Israel. Do others know there is a Christian in Las Vegas based upon your actions?
- B. **Matthew 7:15-20**
"By their fruits you shall know them".
- C. **James 2:18**
Faith is evident only in action.

VII. CONSIDER THE ERROR OF PRESUMPTION

- A. **2nd Kings 5:9-11**
Naaman thought he knew better than the healer how to be healed. He was wrong.
- B. **Proverbs 12:15; 16:25**
He was right in his own eyes, but that made him a fool.
- C. **Isaiah 55:8-9**
God's ways and thoughts are superior to our own.

VIII. NOTICE THAT SUBSTITUTIONS ARE UNACCEPTABLE

- A. **2nd Kings 5:12**

Elisha told him to dip in the Jordan, but Naaman preferred the rivers of Damascus.

B. John 1:45-46

Similarly, Philip proclaimed the Christ from Nazareth, but Nathanael thought he knew better.

C. Deuteronomy 12:32

Neither adding nor subtracting from God's word is acceptable, but Naaman tried both: taking away the Jordan and adding the Pharpar.

D. Galatians 1:6-9

We should likewise be satisfied with the gospel without alteration.

IX. OBSERVE THE IMPOTENCE OF RAGE

A. 2nd Kings 5:12

Naaman's anger did not change the command one iota. When he stormed away, he was still infected!

B. Proverbs 14:29

Naaman proved his folly by his impulsiveness.

C. Proverbs 16:32

He had likely conquered many cities, but he was not slow to anger.

D. James 1:19-20

His quick anger did not achieve righteousness.

E. Proverbs 15:1

His servants deterred his wrath by a soft answer.

X. RECOGNIZE THE FOLLY OF TURNING AWAY

A. 2nd Kings 5:12

"He turned and went away in a rage".

B. John 6:60-68

Turning away from what is right leaves no acceptable alternative.

XI. UNDERSTAND THE REASONABLENESS OF GOD'S COMMANDS

A. 2nd Kings 5:13

Had Elisha told Naaman the cost of his cure was the heads of a hundred Philistine giants, would he have balked? Probably not. It's the simple commands we find so difficult, isn't it?

B. Isaiah 1:18

The salvation offered by God is so reasonable.

XII. SEE THE RESULTS OF OBEDIENCE

A. 2nd Kings 5:14

When he finally did as he was told, Naaman was healed.

B. 1st John 2:3-4; 5:2

Keeping commandments is what it's all about.

CONCLUSION

A. Psalm 119:89

God's commands stand long after man's opinions give way.

B. Invitation