

Naaman Healed of Leprosy

2 Kings 5

PPT Title

Naaman Healed of Leprosy

Main Point: You can't put a price tag on God's blessings.

Key Verse: *But it is just as the Scriptures say, "What God has planned for people who love Him is more than eyes have seen or ears have heard. It has never even entered our minds!" - 1 Corinthians 2:9 CEV*

Props: A large bag that appears to be heavy and full of coins; a few extra "silver" coins

BACKGROUND/REVIEW



Say: After the prophet Elijah was taken up into the sky, his servant, Elisha, took his place as the main prophet of Israel. Elisha asked for a double portion of the Spirit that God had given to Elijah, and God gave it to him. God is pleased to fill His children with His Holy Spirit (Luke 11:13). Right away, Elisha started performing miracles. **Ask:** Who can name one of the miracles that God performed through Elisha? *He split the Jordan River, brought water to the Israelite soldiers, provided oil for the widow, raised the Shunammite woman's son.* **Say:** There are many other stories about the miracles Elisha performed. We don't have time to study all of them. But any time you want to read an amazing **true** story, pick up your Bible and read in 2 Kings! Today we'll hear about one more incredible miracle that God did through His obedient prophet, Elisha.

Before we do that, let's take a minute to back up and look at history, so we can understand our story better. Many years before Elisha's time, God chose a certain people to be **His people**. They were the family of Abraham, and they were known as the **Israelites**. They were God's people, because God chose to reveal Himself to them. Get this - out of all the people in the entire world, God only showed Himself to the Israelites. Isn't that a special honor for the Israelites? Let's think about that.

Let's pretend that even today no one in the world knew anything about the real God. Everyone could see that the world they lived in was awesome, and there must be something that created it all, so everyone made up their own idea of who God was. Some people worshipped the sun because it was high in the sky, some people worshipped water because they needed it to live, and some people made up their own version of what God must be. Then, this morning, God spoke to our class here. Let's say that He told us all about Himself, and told us that because we knew Him, we were special and set apart from everyone else. So out of everyone in the whole world, we were the only people who knew the one true God who created the universe! He made awesome promises to us and gave us incredible blessings. All He asked of us was for us to believe in Him and worship only Him. Wouldn't that be amazing? It was sort of like that with the Israelites. They were the only ones who knew the truth about God because He had chosen to reveal Himself to them.

Eventually, God brought the Israelites to a special land that we call the Promised Land. Even before they entered the land, God promised His people that He would protect them and conquer all of their enemies if they would remain faithful to Him and worship only Him. It was an "If-Then" promise. **If** they worshipped only Him, **then** He would bless and protect them. **Ask:** Did the people keep their part of the "If-Then" promise?





No. **Say:** No, sadly, the only nation who knew the true God turned their backs Him and worshipped false gods. Not every single Israelite turned from God, but almost all of them did. Since the people did not do their part, God would no longer bless and protect them. So, Israel was divided and they lost many battles. Some of the neighboring kingdoms even took some Israelites as slaves. God allowed these things to happen so the Israelites would repent of their sin and stop worshipping worthless false gods. More than anything, He longed for His people to turn back to Him.

NAAMAN'S LEPROSY (2 Kings 5:1-8)

Say: There was a man named Naaman (NAY-uh-muhn) from a nearby kingdom called Aram (AY-ram). The Arameans (ehr-uh-MEE-uhns) were not friends with the Israelites. (**Note to Teacher:** Aram is modern-day Syria.)



*Naaman was commander of the army of the king of Aram. He was a very important man in the eyes of his master. And he was highly respected. That's because **the Lord had helped him** win the battle over Aram's enemies. He was a brave soldier. But he had a skin disease. - 2 Kings 5:1*

Notice Who helped Naaman win his battles. The Lord helped him. Naaman was able to win battles against the Israelites (2 Kings 5:2) because God was no longer fighting for the Israelites.



Naaman was a famous warrior, but he had a BIG problem. The skin disease Naaman had was leprosy. It is a terrible disease that gives a person lumps and sores on his skin. It makes the person's arms and legs feel numb. In time, the person will no longer be able to use their hands, feet, arms and legs. Leprosy can even cause blindness. In Bible times there was **no cure**. It is a contagious disease, which means it can be passed from one person to another. Healthy people looked down on people who had leprosy.



Naaman's wife had a servant who was an Israelite girl. She had been captured when soldiers from Aram invaded Israel, and now she worked in Naaman's home. One day the girl told Naaman's wife, "I wish my master would go and see the prophet who is in Samaria. He would heal my master of his skin disease." (2 Kings 5:3) She was talking about Elisha in Samaria, the capital of Israel.

Naaman told the King of Aram what the little girl said. The King thought it was a great idea. He wanted his best warrior to be healed! The King even wrote a letter to the King of Israel and sent it with Naaman.



So Naaman left. He took 750 pounds of silver with him. He also took 150 pounds of gold. And he took ten sets of clothes. He carried the letter to the King of Israel. It said, "I'm sending my servant Naaman to you with this letter. I want you to heal him of his skin disease."

The King of Israel read the letter. As soon as he did, he tore his royal robes. He said, "Am I God? Can I kill people and bring them back to life? Why does this fellow send someone to me to be healed of his skin disease? He must be trying to pick a fight with me!"



Elisha, the man of God, heard that the king of Israel had torn his robes. So he sent the king a message. It said, "Why have you torn your robes? Tell the man to come to me. Then he will know there is a prophet in Israel." - 2 Kings 5:5b-8

The King of Israel thought that the King of Aram was trying to pick a fight with him! He thought that the King of Aram was demanding that he do something that was impossible, and when he couldn't do it, he would want to go to war. Of course the King couldn't heal a man with leprosy. But the King of the Israelites should have known

Who *could* heal leprosy! (Remember, the Israelites were the only people who knew the one true God.) Isn't it sad that the King of God's people didn't even think about going to God about this healing? Instead, he thought the situation would bring him to ruin.

Elisha knew just what to do. **He knew that nothing is impossible with God!** (Luke 1:37)

It is amazing that Naaman, who is from a country of people that did not know or worship God, decided to turn to God for healing, but the King of Israel, who ruled over God's chosen people, didn't even consider seeking the man of God!

Application: When you have a problem, what do you do first? Do you try to handle it on your own? Do you worry and get discouraged? Do you talk to your friends, or your parents? Certainly, it is great to get advice from other believers, and it is always right to talk to your parents. But our first response should be bringing our problems to the Lord. He has the power that no one else has. He knows our past, present, and future. He always does what is best for us.

NAAMAN'S HEALING (2 Kings 5:9-19)



Say: *So Naaman went to see Elisha. He took his horses and chariots with him. He stopped at the door of Elisha's house.*

Elisha sent a messenger out to him. The messenger said, "Go. Wash yourself in the Jordan River seven times. Then your skin will be healed. You will be pure and clean again."

But Naaman went away angry. He said, "I was sure he would come out to me. I thought he would stand there and pray to the Lord his God. I thought he would wave his hand over my skin. Then I would be healed. And what about the Abana and Pharpar rivers of Damascus? Aren't they better than any of the rivers of Israel? Couldn't I wash in them and be made pure and clean?" So he turned and went away. He was burning with anger. - 2 Kings 5:9-12

Naaman did not like the way Elisha treated him. Naaman was a big, important man in Aram. He was used to being treated almost like a King. He couldn't believe that this prophet would not come out to greet him and make a big show of his healing. But to Elisha, Naaman was no more important than any other person who needed his help.

Acts 10:34 says that God does not show favoritism. That means He treats all people alike. In God's eyes, no person is more important than another person. Elisha offered to heal Naaman, but he would do it the way God instructed him to do it. He would not make a big show because Naaman was a wealthy commander. The healing miracle would give glory to **God**, not Naaman.

Naaman had several servants with him. They talked some sense into their master. Wisely, they told him that he should do what Elisha said to do. So Naaman went to the Jordan River and dipped into it seven times. After his seventh dip, his skin was healed! His icky, sore skin was made new! His skin was like the skin of a young boy.



*Naaman and all of his attendants went back to the man of God. Naaman stood in front of Elisha. He said, "**Now I know that there is no God anywhere in the whole world except in Israel.** Please accept a gift from me."*



The prophet answered, "I serve the Lord. You can be sure that He lives. And you can be just as sure that I won't accept a gift from you." Even though Naaman begged him to take it, Elisha wouldn't. - 2 Kings 5:15-16

Before he came to Israel, Naaman thought he would have to pay a price to be healed.

But his healing was a free gift. Now that he had received his healing, he could have easily just gone home. Instead, he went back to thank Elisha and he offered him gifts in true gratitude. Elisha wasn't trying to be rude by refusing Naaman's gifts. He had a great reason for not accepting them. **Ask:** Does anyone know why Elisha would not take Naaman's gifts? *Listen for answers.* **Say:** Elisha would not take payment for what God had done because it was a **free gift** by God's grace. Accepting gifts in return for blessings goes against God's nature. If Elisha had accepted the gifts, Naaman may have gone home thinking that he had "paid for" his healing. God is the giver of all good gifts (James 1:17). He gives blessings because He is so good, not because we earn them or because we can give anything to Him in return. God healed Naaman so that Naaman would **know** the one true God. God revealed Himself to Naaman, and when He did, He revealed part of His character. He is a God of abundant grace, giving new life to those who do not deserve it.

Application: God is the same today as He was in Naaman's day! (Malachi 3:6) He gives His amazing gifts freely. And, even though leprosy is a horrible disease, God can cleanse people of something much worse than leprosy. God washes away our sin when we choose to put our trust in Jesus. Then He gives us new life. The forgiveness and new life that God gives is a FREE gift (Ephesians 2:8-9). There is nothing we can do to earn it or pay for it. He simply wants us to know that He is the one true God.



Say: Then Naaman asked for something very unusual. He asked Elisha if he could have a pile of dirt from Israel! In the country that he came from, everyone worshipped false gods. Now that Naaman knew the true God, he wanted to set himself apart from those who did not. Naaman wanted to take soil from Israel home with him so he could stand on it when he worshipped God. He promised he would never make a sacrifice to a false god again.



Let's go back to our map for a minute. The Israelites were the ones who were supposed to know and worship God. But almost all of them had forgotten about Him. So what did God do? He made Himself known to an Aramean! Now, Naaman, the Aramean, would go back to Aram and worship the God of Israel. This famous warrior had been **cured** of an **incurable** disease. Surely people would ask how he was healed. His King knew that he went to Israel for healing. We aren't told anymore about Naaman once he returned home, but I can just imagine all the people who would **hear** about the one true God from Naaman's testimony. Those people would also **see** Naaman's example when he no longer bowed down to any god but the God of Israel.



Application: Ask: Can anyone remember who told Naaman about Elisha in the first place? *Naaman's servant girl.* **Say:** It was the little Israelite girl who remained faithful to God even when she had been taken captive. God's plan is SO awesome! Because of the faith and obedience of one little girl, who may have been just about your age, the truth of God would be carried into another country! Don't ever think that because you are young God can't use you to do great things! (1 Timothy 4:12)

GEHAZI'S LIES (2 Kings 5:20-27)



Say: There is one more person in our story today. He is Elisha's servant. He has a fun name. It sort of rhymes with "He May Sigh." His name is Gehazi. (Gee-HEY-zi: hard g sound as in **geese**, hard i sound as in **ice**.) Can you say it with me? Gee-HEY-zi.

Gehazi had been Elisha's servant, just as Elisha was once Elijah's servant. Gehazi was with Elisha when Elisha brought the Shunammite boy back to life. More than likely, Gehazi saw Elisha do many other miracles. He was watching when Naaman came to Elisha to be healed of leprosy, and he was there when Naaman returned to thank Elisha and Elisha refused to take Naaman's gifts.

Gehazi was the servant of Elisha, the man of God. Gehazi said to himself, "My master was too easy on Naaman from Aram. He should have accepted the gift he brought."



I'm going to run after Naaman. I'm going to get something from him. And that's just as sure as the Lord is alive." - 2 Kings 5:20

When Naaman saw Gehazi coming in the distance, he climbed down out of his chariot and greeted him. Gehazi made up a lie. He told Naaman that Elisha asked him to go after Naaman. He said two prophets had just come to visit Elisha and they needed money and clothing. **(This was Lie #1.)** Gehazi asked for 75 pounds of silver and two sets of clothes. Naaman was happy to give Gehazi the clothing, and even gave him twice as much silver as he asked for. (Show some silver coins, and your large bag.)



The silver was so heavy that Naaman ordered two of his servants to carry it for Gehazi. As soon as they got near Elisha's house, Gehazi took the items and hid them away inside the house, and then sent the men away.



When he went in to his master, Elisha asked him, "Where have you been, Gehazi?"

*"I haven't been anywhere," he replied. **(This was Lie #2.)***

But Elisha asked him, "Don't you realize that I was there in spirit when Naaman stepped down from his chariot to meet you? Is this the time to receive money and clothing, olive groves and vineyards, sheep and cattle, and male and female servants? Because you have done this, you and your descendants will suffer from Naaman's leprosy forever." When Gehazi left the room, he was covered with leprosy; his skin was white as snow. - 2 Kings 5:25-27 NLT



Say: Gehazi thought he could do things his way and gain riches. **Ask:** Instead, what did he end up with? *Leprosy.* **Say:** How could a few coins and two sets of clothing ever compare to the blessings that he had been given by being blessed by God? If he had been a faithful servant to Elisha and the Lord, he may even have taken Elisha's place as a great prophet one day.

Gehazi's character seems to be very much like that of Jesus' disciple, Judas. Both Gehazi and Judas lived in the very presence of God's power. Both men had seen miracles; they even saw people raised from the dead! Both had heard the best teaching on the earth. Both men had been given the opportunity to be part of God's amazing plan. But both men traded in God's blessings that last forever for material things that would soon fade away.

Jesus once taught, "So don't worry. Don't say, 'What will we eat?' Or, 'What will we drink?' Or, 'What will we wear?' People who are ungodly run after all of those things. Your Father who is in heaven knows that you need them. But put God's kingdom first. Do what He wants you to do. Then all of those things will also be given to you."

Application: You can't put a price tag on God's blessings. There is NOTHING in this world that compares to the spiritual blessings that God has prepared for those who love Him (1 Corinthians 2:9). We cheat ourselves entirely if we trade in God's blessings for anything this world has to offer. Put God first. He will take care of all your needs and give you what you could never even imagine! (Isaiah 55:1-8)

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