



Naaman Healed of Leprosy

2 Kings 5



God used Elisha to perform miracles and point people to Himself. The great army commander, Naaman, learned that God is all-powerful and worthy to be praised. He learned that you can't put a price tag on God's blessings.

Day #1: Naaman's Problem

Because most of the Israelites stopped following the Lord, they started losing battles. Some of them were even kidnapped and forced to be servants to their enemies. This is what happened to a young Israelite girl. She became a servant in the home of Naaman, the commander of the army of Aram.

How would you feel if one day, soldiers came and took you away from your family? What if you were forced to become a servant, cooking and cleaning for strangers in a foreign land? Would you serve willingly, trying to help the people who captured you? Today, we will see how God used a little girl in this situation to bless her captors and bring glory to God.

Naaman was a brave soldier with a BIG problem. He had a terrible skin disease called leprosy. Leprosy 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** for leprosy. But the little servant girl knew that with God, all things are possible (Matthew 19:26). The little girl told Naaman's wife about God's prophet, Elisha.

† She said, "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 5:3b

This young girl did not think about her own personal difficult situation. She used her situation to point others to God.

* When you are in a bad situation, you have a choice. You can **be bitter**, or you can **be used** by God. You can **point**, or you can **point** people to the Lord.

Day #2: Depend on God

Naaman told the King of Aram what the servant girl said - there was a prophet in Israel who could heal his skin. The King of Aram wanted his great army leader to be healed, so he wrote a letter to the King of Israel, asking for Naaman to be healed.

† 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." - 2 Kings 5b-6

The King of Israel was very upset when Naaman arrived. He thought the King of Aram was asking him to do something impossible. The King of Israel thought that this would lead to big problems, maybe even war. He was so upset that he tore his robes to show his sadness.

Of course the act of healing leprosy was too great of a task for the King of Israel. But he should have known that it was not impossible for God. The leader of God's people did not turn to God for help. He didn't see this challenge as an opportunity for God to show His mighty power. The King depended on himself, and he knew he would fall short.

When Elisha heard what had happened, he sent a message to the King of Israel. He 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 5:8)

* 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? Your first response should be to bring your problems to the Lord. He has the power that no one else has. Your challenges are opportunities for the Lord to show His mighty power (2 Corinthians 12:9).

Day #3: New Skin

Wet one of your hands with water. Now sprinkle some flour onto that hand. Imagine that your hand is covered in the terrible disease of leprosy, and there is no cure.

† 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." - 2 Kings 5:9-10

But Naaman didn't like what he heard. He was used to being treated like a king. He was insulted that Elisha did

Day #3 continued:

not come out to meet him face to face. Naaman thought that Elisha would make a big show of his healing. Naaman did not understand that the healing miracle would bring glory to God, not Naaman. Even though Naaman was covered in leprosy, with no hope of a cure, he stormed off in anger.

Wisely, Naaman's servants calmed down their master, and encouraged him to do what Elisha said. So Naaman went to the Jordan River and dipped into it seven times. (Fill your sink with a few inches of water. Gently rub your hands together while dipping them in the water seven times.) After Naaman's 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."

But Elisha would not accept anything from Naaman. Naaman had to learn that God did not heal him because he was an important leader, or because he had valuable gifts to give. The Lord healed him because God is good, and God wants people to know Him.



When you come to God, you must do things His way. He ALWAYS knows best. He helps you because He is good, and He wants people to know Him.

Day #4: Priceless

You have seen the credit card commercial that lists the price of several items, and then names an item that is **priceless**. Priceless means that something is more valuable than any amount of money. Naaman learned that he could never put a price tag on God's blessing. His healing was PRICELESS.

There was another man who didn't learn this lesson until it was too late. Gehazi had been Elisha's servant, just as Elisha was once Elijah's servant. Gehazi saw Elisha do many miracles, including bringing a dead boy back to life! Gehazi was watching when Naaman came to Elisha to be healed of leprosy, and he was there when Elisha refused to take Naaman's gifts.

After Naaman left, Gehazi ran after him. Gehazi lied and said that the prophets needed the money and clothing he had offered to Elisha. Fooled by Gehazi, Naaman gave his supplies generously. When Gehazi returned home, he hid the gifts and lied to his master, Elisha. But Gehazi could never hide what he had done from the Lord! God revealed the truth to Elisha. Elisha said:



Is this the time for you to accept money or clothes? Is it the time to take olive groves, vineyards, flocks or herds? Is it the time to accept male and female servants? - 2 Kings 5:26b

Day #4 continued:

Elisha was saying that God would reward those who are faithful, in His perfect timing. We do not need to run after the things of this world. God's gifts are far greater than anything we can imagine (Matthew 6:5-6).

Then Elisha pronounced punishment on Gehazi: *You and your children after you will have Naaman's skin disease forever. Then Gehazi left Elisha. And he had Naaman's skin disease. His skin was as white as snow.* - 2 Kings 5:27

It would seem that Gehazi was in line to be the next great prophet of Israel. That is a PRICELESS blessing. But he threw it away chasing after worldly riches.



List some of the material things that are valued in this world. Now list some of God's blessings. Which things are more valuable? Remember that God gives gifts that are PRICELESS (1 Corinthians 2:9).

Day #5: Sin Disease

Our **sin** disease is worse than Naaman's **skin** disease. Leprosy rots the body, but sin corrupts the soul.

Naaman was helpless. There was no cure for his deadly disease. There was no pill he could take; there was no cream that would remove his sores. There was no amount of money he could pay to save himself. In the same way, each of us is helpless. There is nothing we can do to cure our sin problem. There is no good work we can do to erase our sin (Ephesians 2:9). Just like Naaman, we cannot buy our way out of our terrible condition.

But God is the great Rescuer. God had a rescue plan for Naaman. The plan was a free gift, but Naaman had to trust God in order to receive it. Simply *knowing* that the water could heal Naaman was not enough. Naaman had to step into the Jordan River for his skin to be made new.

Just the same, God has a rescue plan for us. It is a free gift, but we must trust God in order to receive it (Ephesians 2:8). Just *knowing* that Jesus died on the cross to forgive your sin is not enough. You must put your trust in Jesus - fully depend on Him - in order for your soul to be made new (Isaiah 25:9, Acts 16:31).

Because of God's freely given grace, Naaman was determined to worship the one true God for the rest of his days. He promised:



I won't ever bring burnt offerings and sacrifices to any other god again. I'll bring them only to the Lord. - 2 Kings 5:17b



If you have accepted God's gift of salvation, then, just like Naaman, set aside everything that you used to focus your time and attention on, and worship the one true God.