

HEALING OF NAAMAN

Account of the healing of Naaman's leprosy by washing in Jordan River familiar to many.

But the others involved are often overlooked, even though they played important roles.

The people involved, other than Naaman and Elisha:

- (1) A little girl from the land of Israel;
- (2) Naaman's wife;
- (3) king of Aram;
- (4) king of Israel;
- (5) Naaman's servants;
- (6) Gehazi, the servant of Elisha

THE ACCOUNT (2 Kings 5) **[read each section sequentially and comment]**

- :1-3 Word of a possible cure by a prophet in Samaria.
- :4-6 Preparations made; letter drafted; Naaman sent.
- :7 King in Israel suspicious and perplexed.
- :8-10 Elisha hears of incident; tells king to send Naaman to him.
- :11-12 Naaman furious over how he was received; what he was told to do.
- :13-14 Admonished by his servants, he relents; dips in river and is cured.
- :15-19 Seeks to pay Elisha, but payment refused.

NAAMAN WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN CURED, SAVE FOR:

A captive servant girl's faith.

She had implicit faith in the prophet of God.

She had compassion for her mistress' husband.

Lesson: Need a child-like faith (trusting; no cynicism). Mat.19:14

His wife's informing him. (She had some faith in the possibility of it happening.)

She didn't dismiss it as ridiculous.

She shared the information with her husband.

Lesson: Good News needs to be shared; never prejudge.

His master, king of Aram making arrangements and payment.

(Faith enough to invest, write a letter of introduction and send Naaman)

He listened to the report.

He invested time, money and effort in Naaman's quest for healing.

He wrote a letter of introduction.

Lesson: Only by pursuing possibilities can results be achieved.

Elisha's willingness to heal. (Faith that God would grant him the power to heal.)

He was willing to heal one of Israel's enemies. (He didn't need to intervene.)

He didn't feel "such men deserve to suffer."

He used it as an opportunity to glorify God.

Lesson: Do good unto your enemies. Luk.6:27-28, 35

Naaman's servants admonition to try it. (Faith enough to encourage him.)

Sound advice: Don't refuse just because it isn't what you expected.

Lesson: Ours is not to question or reason why, but to obey. Simple trusting faith.

God doesn't owe us an explanation.

Naaman's willingness to trust in word of the man of God. (Finally)

Lesson: Not until we put our trust in the word of the Lord, will we be cleansed.

ADDENDUM :20-27

Gehazi, Elisha's servant is greedy; pursues Naaman seeking riches.

Concocts story: "His master needs provisions to care for unexpected guests."

Receives and stores away generous gifts; lies to Elisha about what he had done.

Told: "The leprosy of Naaman shall cleave to you and to your descendants forever."

Lessons: Greed consumes it's possessor. Pro.11:6; 1Ti.6:10