



DEVOTIONAL MESSAGE

The necessity of Humility & Obedience ... By Gareth

READ 2 KINGS 5: 1 - 14

- 1. Naaman was a great man
- Some people live and die without achieving anything of importance, whereas others rise to fame and make a name for themselves. Such was Naaman (verse 1). Wherever he went he was acclaimed. He was “a commander.....a great man.....highly regarded.....”; by him the Lord had accomplished much, and he was “a valiant soldier”. A great man indeed — courageous, popular, dependable!
- **2. Naaman had a serious disease.**
- The last five words in verse 1 tell us that beneath his splendid uniform was the loathsome disease of leprosy. Do you know anyone like that? Success? Yes, but beneath it tragedy and sorrow. “A great man.....but he had leprosy”. Is that your story? Only God and you know the leprosy, the sin, the hurt in your heart; it is hidden from others, but God sees it
- **3. Naaman had a gentle maid in his household.**
- Feeling insignificant today? take heart God sees everyone including you. Verses 2 – 4 tell us that this little girl had been captured and brought away from her home and loved-ones. In that home she had learned to trust in the living God. When she discovered her master was a leper she was filled with compassion for him, and she felt she must witness to God’s power, ability and willingness to cure Naaman. The wonderful thing is that Naaman was not too proud to listen to the testimony of the little girl! In verse 5 we are told that the King of Syria arranged for Naaman to go to the land of Israel to get the cure he so much needed.
- **4. Naaman made three grave mistakes**
 - First, he thought he could BUY the cure. Verse 5 says that he took with him a very great deal of money. One talent of silver required two bags to be carried, see v 23, and in addition to this he took “six thousand shekels of gold, and ten sets of clothing”! What a gift! But all the money in the world cannot cure a man of spiritual leprosy.....of sin.....see *1 Peter 1:18-19*. Many people think they can earn their salvation, but God’s Word clearly states that salvation is a gift that has to be received, and we can do nothing to earn it – look up *Romans 3:20; Titus 3:5*.
 - Second, he went to the WRONG PLACE to be cured. He went to the king instead of to Elisha (verse 6). Many today are knocking at the wrong door for salvation: for example, at the door of confession to a priest (*1 Timothy 2:5*); at the door of Spiritism or some other false cult; at the door of respectability or of church affiliation. There is only one door

(Continued next page...)



WEEKLY EVENTS/NOTICES

– *John 10:9*; there is only one place where the leprosy of sin can be dealt with, and that is at the feet of Jesus – *Luke 7:37-38, 48-50*.

- Third, he wanted to be cured IN HIS OWN WAY, and not in God's way. God's way is outlined in *verse 10*, and *verses 11-12* tell us of Naaman's reaction when he learned of God's method of cleansing. Many people want their way and not God's, and how different their way is from God's – look up *Isaiah 55:8-9!* But look at *verse 13*. God's way is simple and effective: for example, we are saved by turning (*Isaiah 45:22*); by calling (*Romans 10:13*); by coming (*Matthew 11:28*); by welcoming (*Revelation 3:20*); by entering (*John 10:9*); by touching (*Matthew 14:36*); by receiving (*John 1:12*). If you have never done so, will you try it?
- Have you something hanging over you? Maybe like Naaman you're still going through every day but there is something underneath the outward appearance that is holding you back?
- **5. Naaman was cured by a glorious miracle**
 - There was A GREAT HUMBLING. We read that Naaman "went down". His pride had to go – and in front of all his officers and servants this mighty man had to go down, down, down....
 - There was PERFECT OBEDIENCE. In *verse 10* the prophet said "seven times", and thus "seven times" Naaman dipped himself beneath the water. Naaman was still a leper, and only when he perfected his obedience by dipping the seventh time did the miracle take place. When anyone takes God at His word He always performs the miracle for them – look up *Romans 10:9-10*.
 - There was A COMPLETE CURE. The last part of *verse 14* tells us this.

Events /Notices

- ▶ Roland La Hausse from Good Foundations will be ministering the Word this Saturday evening the *5th* at *7pm* and on *Sunday* morning the *6th* at *11:00am*
- ▶ Bible study this coming *Friday* the *11th* at *8pm*.
- ▶ Harvest Thanksgiving family meeting on *Friday* the *18th* at *7pm*. ■