

BROKEN VESSELS

HOW GOD USES ORDINARY PEOPLE

Naaman – Healing And Humility

September 3, 2023

1. Meet Naaman

Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Syria, was a great man with his master and in high favor, because by him the Lord had given victory to Syria. He was a mighty man of valor.... 2 Kings 5:1 (ESV)

- **Don't be jealous of someone else's life. Everybody has their share of problems, suffering, and pain.**

2. Meet An Unnamed Junior High Girl

Now the Syrians on one of their raids had carried off a little girl from the land of Israel, and she worked in the service of Naaman's wife. She said to her mistress, "Would that my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy." 2 Kings 5:2-3 (ESV)

- **God never forgets about his people. When we face unexpected tragedies and setbacks, God has a good plan to bring us to places we would have never gone to do work we never expected to do.**

What put this girl in a position to be used by God?

1. She didn't give in to bitterness.
2. She loved her enemies.

"But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you,..." Luke 6:27 (ESV)

3. She courageously spoke the truth in a place that wasn't eager to hear it.

3. In Search Of A Cure

So Naaman went in and told his lord, "Thus and so spoke the girl from the land of Israel." And the king of Syria said, "Go now, and I will send a letter to the king of Israel." So he went, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten changes of clothing. 2 Kings 5:4-5 (ESV)

And he brought the letter to the king of Israel, which read, "When this letter reaches you, know that I have sent to you Naaman my servant, that you may cure him of his leprosy." And when the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to kill and to make alive, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? Only consider, and see how he is seeking a quarrel with me." 2 Kings 5:6-7 (ESV)

But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent to the king, saying, "Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come now to me, that he may know that there is a prophet in Israel." 2 Kings 5:8 (ESV)

- Every crisis is an opportunity for God to mature His people and grow His church.

So Naaman came with his horses and chariots and stood at the door of Elisha's house. 2 Kings 5:9 (ESV)

And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored, and you shall be clean."
2 Kings 5:10 (ESV)

But Naaman was angry and went away, saying, "Behold, I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call upon the name of the LORD his God, and wave his hand over the place and cure the leper. Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?" So he turned and went away in a rage.
2 Kings 5:11–12 (ESV)

But his servants came near and said to him, "My father, it is a great word the prophet has spoken to you; will you not do it? Has he actually said to you, 'Wash, and be clean'?" 2 Kings 5:13 (ESV)

So he went down and dipped himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God, and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean. 2 Kings 5:14 (ESV)

How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!" Romans 10:14–15 (ESV)

Then he returned to the man of God, he and all his company, and he came and stood before him. And he said, "Behold, I know that there is no God in all the earth but in Israel; so accept now a present from your servant." But he said, "As the LORD lives, before whom I stand, I will receive none." And he urged him to take it, but he refused. 2 Kings 5:15–16 (ESV)

Then Naaman said, "If not, please let there be given to your servant two mule loads of earth, for from now on your servant will not offer burnt offering or sacrifice to any god but the LORD. In this matter may the LORD pardon your servant: when my master goes into the house of Rimmon to worship there, leaning on my arm, and I bow myself in the house of Rimmon, when I bow myself in the house of Rimmon, the LORD pardon your servant in this matter." He said to him, "Go in peace."... 2 Kings 5:17–19a (ESV)

"Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool. Isaiah 1:18 (ESV)

4. Conclusion

1. **Just as Naaman's leprosy was taken away and his body was restored after calling out in desperation to God, in the same way, the disfigurement of our sin can be taken away, and our heart made new when we obey God's Word and call out to Jesus to save us.**

...if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. Romans 10:9 (ESV)

2. **God loves to use ordinary and broken people in significant ways for His kingdom.**

Life Group Questions

1. Ask your leader about this year's life group covenant. If you haven't gone through it, plan a meeting to review it.
2. **Read 2 Kings 5:1-19.** What does Naaman teach us about the danger of envying those who seem to have a better life?
3. Why did God choose to heal Naaman even though he was an unbeliever and a Gentile?
4. Why was Naaman shocked and resistant to Elisha's instructions for his healing?
5. What helped put this unnamed junior high girl in a position where God used her in such a significant way? What can we learn from this about putting ourselves in a position to be useful to God?
6. How does what God did through the tragedy of this young girl's slavery help us reframe our troubles?
7. In what ways does Naaman's healing of leprosy parallel the way we can be healed of our sins?