

ESF, Lord's day service message
6/23/2019

How to Receive God's Healing
2 Kings 5:1-14

¹ Now Naaman was commander of the army of the king of Aram. He was a great man in the sight of his master and highly regarded, because through him the LORD had given victory to Aram. He was a valiant soldier, but he had leprosy.

² Now bands of raiders from Aram had gone out and had taken captive a young girl from Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. ³ She said to her mistress, "If only my master would see the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy."

⁴ Naaman went to his master and told him what the girl from Israel had said. ⁵ "By all means, go," the king of Aram replied. "I will send a letter to the king of Israel." So Naaman left, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold and ten sets of clothing. ⁶ The letter that he took to the king of Israel read: "With this letter I am sending my servant Naaman to you so that you may cure him of his leprosy."

⁷ As soon as the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his robes and said, "Am I God? Can I kill and bring back to life? Why does this fellow send someone to me to be cured of his leprosy? See how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me!"

⁸ When Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his robes, he sent him this message: "Why have you torn your robes? Have the man come to me and he will know that there is a prophet in Israel." ⁹ So Naaman went with his horses and chariots and stopped at the door of Elisha's house. ¹⁰ Elisha sent a messenger to say to him, "Go, wash yourself seven times in the Jordan, and your flesh will be restored and you will be cleansed."

¹¹ But Naaman went away angry and said, "I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call on the name of the LORD his

God, wave his hand over the spot and cure me of my leprosy. ¹² Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Couldn't I wash in them and be cleansed?" So he turned and went off in a rage.

¹³ Naaman's servants went to him and said, "My father, if the prophet had told you to do some great thing, would you not have done it? How much more, then, when he tells you, "Wash and be cleansed!" ¹⁴ So he went down and dipped himself in the Jordan seven times, as the man of God had told him, and his flesh was restored and became clean like that of a young boy.

Naaman was commander of the army of the king of Aram. He was the most powerful man next to the king. But he had a serious problem. He was a leper. He had money and power to have all the doctors and medicines available in those days. But there is no doctor or medicine to cure him of his leprosy. Because of this sickness his life became miserable. But he found the way of healing. It was the healing of the God of Israel. Through God's healing his leprosy was completely cured.

Like Naaman, there may be a problem which puts our lives in crisis. Through Naaman's example, God shows us a way to overcome the crisis.

God uses believers' witnessing to heal the sick

Naaman was not a believer. He knew nothing about the God of Israel. He had no idea of who God is, how to worship God, how to pray to God, and how to seek God's help. So there was no way for him to find God's healing. But he had a slave girl in his home who was a believer. Although she was a slave, she had something her master Naaman did not have. It was faith in God who is the healer. If she witnessed God's healing power to him, he would be healed of his leprosy.

However, it was not easy for her to witness God's healing power to her master Naaman. There were many reasons not to witness of God to her

master. She had been taken captive by Aramean raiders. Because of them, she was suffering in a strange land. Because of them, she was miles away from her loving parents and friends. She could have been bitter against the Arameans. Also she could have wondered why God allowed her to become a captive slave girl. She might have compared herself with her master Naaman and have considered herself poor and unworthy: “My master has everything I don’t have. He is powerful and rich. He would not take my witnessing of God seriously. What if he rejects my witnessing? I would have more trouble.”

But she overcame bitterness and doubt. She courageously witness her faith to her Aramean master: *"If only my master would see the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy."* What she believed in was not the prophet, but God who could heal the sickness through the prophet. God used her witnessing to heal Naaman. And her witnessing made all the difference. Through her faith, she was able to give the greatest of all gifts to her master.

God still uses believers to witness to His healing powers. If you are a believer, don’t underestimate what God can do through your witnessing. God has given you faith to bless many people. God has given you faith to share with those who do not know Him. God has given you faith to bring His healing to those who are suffering from hopeless diseases.

Jesus promises that he will bring his healing power to people through believers’ witnessing in Mark 16:15-18: *“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. ...And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; ...they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well.”*

We can’t be bold enough to witness the gospel to unbelievers by our own effort. Jesus promises to give us the power of the Holy Spirit who will enable us to be bold and effective in witnessing: *“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my*

witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:8).

All men either rich or poor, either highly educated or uneducated, either famous or ordinary, either physically healthy or sick, either young or old, need God’s forgiveness of their sins. With the power of the Holy Spirit, witness God’s blessing to the unbelievers. Don’t ignore what God can do through your witnessing. God’s miraculous blessing through your witnessing to unbelievers is closer than you think. Even if you are poorer than unbelievers are, even if you are less educated than unbelievers are, even if you are inferior to unbelievers in many ways, you have something marvelous which they don’t have and which they desperately need. It is God’s healing grace. It is the good news of salvation of Jesus Christ.

God uses crisis in your life to seek his mercy

When Naaman heard the slave girl’s witness, it was difficult for him to believe it. He was the second highest man next to the king in his nation. He would have gone through life trusting in himself and all his achievements. He had everything that a man would want today-fame, power and wealth. The slave girl who was witnessing to God’s healing did not have anything he had. It must have hurt his pride to accept the servant girl’s witness of God.

But he knew that there was no way to cure his leprosy. His life was in crisis because of an incurable disease. In the crisis, he became desperate and gave up on his pride. He decided to believe in God’s healing which the slave girl was witnessing to. He came to Israel to see the prophet and seek God’s healing. And God healed him.

God will do the same for us today. God uses crises in life to wake us up and help us see what truly matters. Through crises in our lives God gets our attention to seek Him. In Jeremiah 29:13 God promises us, *“You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.”*

Are you facing a crisis today? Are you struggling with a hopeless problem today? Seek God's mercy. Seek God with all your heart. God is ready to be found by you.

God blesses you when you surrender your will to his will

Although Naaman listened to the witness of the slave girl, and came to Israel to seek God's healing, he had one more obstacle to overcome. It was his ego and pride.

When he came to Elisha the prophet, he expected that Elisha might come out to treat him nicely. But Elisha did not treat him as he expected. Elisha did not come out from his house. He sent a messenger to Naaman. Through the messenger, Elisha told Naaman to go in the river Jordan and wash himself seven times.

As soon as Naaman heard these words, he felt insulted. He became angry and went off in a rage. He said: *I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, wave his hand over the spot and cure me of my leprosy. Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Couldn't I wash in them and be cleansed?*

As an army commander, Naaman did not know how to surrender himself to anybody. For him surrendering himself to somebody meant defeat.

But while he was fighting against leprosy; to be victorious over the disease, he had to surrender himself to God's prophet. It meant surrendering himself to God.

Because God's ways are usually different from our ways, and His ways are better than our ways, God wants us to surrender our ways to His ways.

In Isaiah 55:8-9, God says,

⁸ *For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways,
declares the LORD.*

⁹ *As the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.*

That is why the prophet did not come out and treat Naaman as a VIP but sent a messenger and commanded him to wash in the Jordan seven times. When he surrendered himself to the command, God healed his leprosy.

Naaman's problem is often our problem as well. Mohamed Ali, one of the most famous boxers, was on an airplane. A flight attendant said, "Please fasten your seatbelt." He responded in pride, "Superman doesn't need a seatbelt." She responded, "Superman doesn't need an airplane either."

Very often, we come to God in the same way. We have our plan and our way and we expect God to say YES to it. "Lord, give me a cure. Wave your hand and let the problem disappears. And I will believe in you." And when things do not turn out as we expect, we may get upset. We may give up on seeking God. That is the evidence of pride.

When God wants to bless us, God always challenges our pride and our ego. God encourages us to surrender our ways to His ways. 1 Peter 5: 6 says, *Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.*

God's amazing grace for you and me is not so far as we think. It is very near to us. Here through Naaman's case, God is teaching us the way to the greatest victory: *Surrender yourself to me. Surrender your own ways to my ways. And I will pour out my amazing healing power into your life.*

How does God challenge your pride? How can you give up on your pride? God uses people or situations to challenge your pride. People may say to you something to help you, to encourage you to receive God's blessing. God may use certain situations to encourage you to admit that you are a proud person and you need to humble yourself. But it may hurt to acknowledge that. It may be hard for you to accept their advice or accept God's conviction. It may make you upset or angry. At that time, you have two choices.

First choice and easy choice is that you reject their advice or God's conviction and insist in your own way. Then what will happen to you? You will remain proud and stubborn. Your troubles will continue. You will lose the opportunity to receive God's blessing and so overcome your troubles. You will lose the opportunity to overcome your immaturity and to grow.

Second choice is to give up on your pride even if it hurts. Admit that you are a proud and a stubborn person. Take their advice and follow their advice. Accept God's conviction and surrender your will to his will. Then what will happen to you? God will enable you to overcome impossible troubles. God will heal you and make you mature. God will bless you with people around you.

Do not remain upset and anger when you feel insulted by people. Use the insult to humble yourself. Do not insist on your way when God does not treat you as you expect or God convicts you of pride and deflates your ego. Surrender your way to God's way. Follow all God's instructions given to you even if you can't understand them. God will heal you. God will enable you to overcome the trouble you could never overcome.