

=FAVORITE BIBLE CHAPTERS=

Lesson 38

II Kings 5

I. NAAMAN'S CONDITION.

1. Naaman was a leper. Leprosy is a disease that starts with a little pimple on the eyelid or the palm of the hand. It then spreads to different members of the body until the entire body often is covered by an awful, loathsome, running disease in its worst form. It causes members of the body to rot and fall off. For example, a person's finger might fall off one joint at a time, and then the entire hand may just rot away. Leprosy was very contagious, so contagious that one who had it was to separate himself from the rest of society. If he met someone who was not a leper, he was to cross to the other side of the road. He was to cry, "Unclean, unclean," so as to remind the people not to associate socially with him.

In the Bible leprosy is a picture of sin. Sin usually starts on the eyelids. We usually see, and then we take with our hands. Just as leprosy begins on the eyelid and the hand, so does sin. Just as leprosy begins with a small pimple, so sin begins with a small act or thought or attitude.

Just as leprosy finally separates, so does sin. Sin separates us from God. Sin separates us from fellowship with other Christians, and eventually the unconverted person must be separated forever from God and from all Christian people.

2. Naaman was captain of the host of the king of Syria. II Kings 5:1a. He was an important man, a man of great military might.

3. Naaman was a great man. II Kings 5:1b.

4. Naaman was an honorable man. II Kings 5:1c. He was the kind of fellow who paid his debts. He was honest. He told the truth. He was respected. In spite of this, he was a leper.

5. Naaman was a mighty man. II Kings 5:1d. In other words, he was courageous; yet he was a leper.

II. THE LITTLE MAID OF ISRAEL. There was in the house of Naaman a little maid who pointed him to the man of God. Let us notice several things about her.

1. She was captive. II Kings 5:2. No doubt, in a war with the Israelites, the Syrians had taken her captive. In spite of this, she told Naaman about the man of God, where he could be healed. She could have been bitter; she could have wanted Naaman not to be healed, but she was forgiving and pointed him to Elisha.

2. She was unnamed. She was a little-known person. She was no great person of valor. She was no mighty person; she had no big job. She was just a little unnamed lady, but she did what she could. This could be true of any of us. We may not be famous, but we can do what we can in our own position.

3. She was obedient to Naaman. Notice the words in verse 3, "my lord." Here is a beautiful statement. Though she was captive and could have been bitter, and though she was away from home and was a slave, she nevertheless was obedient to her master. She was disciplined. She respected authority and yielded herself to the commands of her boss.

4. She pointed him to the man of God. II Kings 5:3, 4. She did her job pointing Naaman to the one who could help him. In this story Elisha is a picture of Jesus Christ; Naaman is a picture of the sinner; the little maid is a picture of the soul winner. We are to point people to Jesus.

III. THE CLEANSING OF NAAMAN.

1. He wanted to make his own way. Read II Kings 5:9-12. Elisha had told him what to do, but he was indignant; he wanted to make his own way. Here is a picture of man's desire to save himself. Man hates to admit he needs saving. So it was with Naaman. (Here is a good chance,

teacher, to explain the plan of salvation. It is not what we think, it is not what we do, it is not what we want to do; it is according to God's plan that we can be saved.)

2. He was cleansed. Read II Kings 5:13, 14, and notice especially the last phrases, "...and his flesh came again like unto the flesh of a little child, and he was clean." Compare this with Isaiah 1:18b, "...though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow," says the Scripture.

3. He turned to the true God. II Kings 5:15. Naaman turned to God and was converted.

CONCLUSION: All this was made possible by the faithfulness of a little maid in Israel who was willing to be her best, not to be bitter, to have forgiveness, and do what she could to point people to the man of God.