

Bible reading

2 Kings 5:1–14

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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.

2 Kings 5:1–14

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.

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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.

2 Kings 5:1–14

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.

Cleansing for the leper

'Faith in a secular age' series

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24-03-2019



The story of Naaman

- ▶ A 3000 year old conversion story
 - Naaman had a need
 - Heard a testimony
 - Took a step
 - Got an advice
 - Learned to put aside his pride
 - Got healed by 'baptism' in the Jordan

Background

- ▶ Aram = Syria
- ▶ King Ben Hadad (6:24)
- ▶ ~850 BC

- ▶ Often war between Israel and Aram/Syria (6)
- ▶ King of Israel: Ahab
- ▶ King of Judah: Jehoram



Elisha

- ▶ Used to be the helper of Elijah
- ▶ Now the prophet of Israel
- ▶ Double portion of Elijah's spirit

- ▶ Had his eyes and ears open
- ▶ Humble, but strong in God

Philippians 2:4: let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

The Israelite girl

- ▶ Taken away from her home country
- ▶ Serving the enemy

- ▶ Gives her testimony
- ▶ Through her, God gave mercy to Naaman!

Romans 8:28: and we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

Naaman

- ▶ Highly regarded by the king
- ▶ Courageous soldier
- ▶ Loved by his servants

- ▶ A proud man
- ▶ Through him, God gave Aram victories!

Isaiah 10:5–6: “Woe to the Assyrian, the rod of my anger, in whose hand is the club of my wrath! ⁶ I send him against a godless nation, I dispatch him against a people who anger me, to seize loot and snatch plunder, and to trample them down like mud in the streets

Naaman's cleansing

- ▶ Leprosy in the bible
 - Symbol of sin
 - Symbol of destructive power
 - Symbol of abandonment

- ▶ The baptism of Naaman
 - Washed away his leprosy
 - A simple command from Elisha
 - A simple command to us!

Romans 3:23

For all have sinned and
fall short of the glory of
God

Acts 22:16

And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be
baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name.

Follow up

¹⁵ Then Naaman and all his attendants went back to the man of God. He stood before him and said, “**Now I know that there is no God in all the world except in Israel.** So please accept a gift from your servant.”

¹⁶ The prophet answered, “As surely as the LORD lives, whom I serve, I will not accept a thing.” And even though Naaman urged him, he refused.

¹⁷ “If you will not,” said Naaman, “please let me, your servant, be given as much earth as a pair of mules can carry, **for your servant will never again make burnt offerings and sacrifices to any other god but the LORD.**”

Follow up

¹⁸ But may the LORD forgive your servant for this one thing: When my master enters the temple of Rimmon to bow down and he is leaning on my arm and I have to bow there also—when I bow down in the temple of Rimmon, may the LORD forgive your servant for this.”

¹⁹ “Go in peace,” Elisha said.

Your grace is enough

Great is your faithfulness oh God
You wrestle with the sinner's heart
You lead us by still waters and to mercy
And nothing can keep us apart

So remember your people
Remember your children
Remember your promise
oh God



Your grace is enough

Your grace is enough

Your grace is enough

Your grace is enough for me



Your grace is enough

Great is your love and justice God
You use the weak to lead the strong
You lead us in the song of your salvation
And all your people sing along

So remember your people
Remember your children
Remember your promise
oh God



Your grace is enough

Your grace is enough

Your grace is enough

Your grace is enough for me

Your grace is enough

Your grace is enough

Your grace is enough for me



Your grace is enough

So remember your people
Remember your children
Remember your promise
oh God

Your grace is enough
Your grace is enough
Your grace is enough for me



Your grace is enough

Your grace is enough
Heaven reaching down to us
Your grace is enough for me

Your grace is enough
I'm covered in your love
Your grace is enough for me
for me



How are you here today?

- ▶ As the girl
- ▶ As Naaman
- ▶ As Elisha