

# Naaman, the Syrian

2 King 5:1-14

## Introduction:

- A. Naaman had good things going for him.
  - 1. "A great and honorable man in eyes of his master"
  - 2. "By him the Lord had given victory to Syria."
  - 3. "He was a mighty man of valor"
- B. But, Naaman had some serious problems.
  - 1. A leper, like sin, - a problem that position and power couldn't help.
  - 2. A Syrian with pride - a problem that had to be overcome before cured.
- C. Naaman made some *mistakes* then *corrections* that are worth noting.

## Discussion:

### I. Naaman's Mistakes.

- A. He went to the wrong person.
  - 1. The slave girl had pointed him to the prophet in Israel. (vs. 3-4)
  - 2. The king pointed him to the king of Israel. (vs. 5-7).
    - a. Many think high and mighty have answers. (cf. 1 Cor. 1:26-2:4)
    - b. Many look anywhere except inspired word. (cf. 2 Tim. 3:14-16).
- B. He went with the wrong attitude - prejudice and pride. (v. 11-12).
  - 1. Became furious when Elisha didn't heal him his way (v. 11)
    - a. Many want to be saved and serve God their way rather than Lord's way.
    - b. Many offended when Bible answers does not fit their prejudices.
  - 2. Considered rivers of *his* country better than all in the Lord's country (v. 12)
    - a. Why was one *river* not as good as another for Naaman?
    - b. Why was one *fire* not as good as another for Nadab and Abihu? (Lev. 10:1-4).
    - c. Why was one *tribe* not as good as another for the priesthood for Israel? (Heb. 7:12-24).
    - d. Why is one *music* not as good as another for us? (Eph. 5:19).
    - e. Why is one *day* not as good as another for the L.S. and Contribution? (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:1,2).
    - f. Why is one *church, Lord*, etc. not as good as another for us? (Eph. 4:4-6)
- C. He went away in a rage. (vs. 11,12).
  - 1. Did not change his condition - still a leper.
  - 2. Did not change the prophet's message - still "go wash".

### II. Naaman's Corrections.

- A. He finally listened to reason from his servants. (v.13)
  - 1. Obedience requires a rational response to God's word - prejudice and pride are often irrational.
  - 2. Obedience requires rational acceptance of what God says, even if it seems irrational to us.
- B. He finally went down and did what God's prophet said to do?
  - 1. His leprosy was washed away - not by water power, but God power.
  - 2. Our sins are washed away in baptism (Acts 22:17) - not by water power, but God's power.
  - 3. Being baptized in water saves us (1 Pet. 3:21) just like dipping in water healed Naaman.

## Conclusion:

- A. Let us profit from Naaman's mistakes.
- B. Let us even profit more from Naaman's corrections.