DIPPED AND DELLYTERED

DECEIVED AND DISEASED

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A lesson that revolves around a miracle, and the two separate stories that occur

We are introduced to Naaman through these scriptures

2 Kings 5:1 King James Version

5 Now Naaman, captain of the host of the king of Syria, was a great man with his master, and honourable, because by him the Lord had given deliverance unto Syria: he was also a mighty man in valour, but he was a leper.

The Bible tells us that Naaman was a noble man as commander of the Syrian army:

- → found favor in the king's eyes
- found favor in God's eyes through his repeated military victories

Unfortunately, Naaman also had leprosy:

refers to some type of skin disease, not necessarily Hansen's disease that we know it has today

Remember, Naaman's position of power allowed him access to the best medical care available:

- → no cure available
- all his accomplishments, yet he still felt hopeless

- 2 Kings 5:2-4 King James Version
- 2 And the Syrians had gone out by companies, and had brought away captive out of the land of Israel a little maid; and she waited on Naaman's wife. 3 And she said unto her mistress, Would God my lord were with the prophet that is in Samaria! for he would recover him of his leprosy.

4 And one went in, and told his lord, saying, Thus and thus said the maid that is of the land of Israel.

ONE OF THE UNNAMED, UNSUNG HEROES OF THIS STORY.....

A LITTLE SLAVE GIRL

She was taken captive as part of Syrian raids, and made to work in Naaman's house for this

→ she speaks of a prophet in Samaria who can heal Naaman's leprosy

THIS SMALL CHILD'S FAITH UNDER DURESS!!!

NOTE HER CONCERN, COMPASSION, AND CONFIDENCE

Luke 8:15 King James Version

15 But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience.

Hebrews 11:6 King James Version
6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Proverbs 15:31 King James Version
31 The ear that heareth the reproof of life abideth among the wise.

NAAMAN BELIEVES IN THE YOUNG GIRL'S TESTIMONY

2 Kings 5:5 King James Version

5 And the king of Syria said, Go to, go, and I will send a letter unto the king of Israel. And he departed, and took with him ten talents of silver, and six thousand pieces of gold, and ten changes of raiment.

Naaman gets permission from the Syrian king to travel to Samaria to meet this prophet

- → the Syrian king assumes (incorrectly) that Elisha worked in the Israelite king's royal court
- → he also sends 750 pounds of gold and 150 pounds of silver with Naaman as a gift

2 Kings 5:6-7 King James Version

6 And he brought the letter to the king of Israel, saying, Now when this letter is come unto thee, behold, I have therewith sent Naaman my servant to thee, that thou mayest recover him of his leprosy.

7 And it came to pass, when the king of Israel had read the letter, that he rent his clothes, and said, Am I God, to kill and to make alive, that this man doth send unto me to recover a man of his leprosy? wherefore consider, I pray you, and see how he seeketh a quarrel against me.

The king of Israel reads the letter, and immediately is frightened

BUT WHY??

Neither he or any of the royal court could heal Naaman

→ what if Naaman returned home unhealed?

would that incite Syria to attack?

HE WASN'T THINKING OF ELISHA

2 Kings 5:8 King James Version

8 And it was so, when Elisha the man of God had heard that the king of Israel had rent his clothes, that he sent to the king, saying, Wherefore hast thou rent thy clothes? let him come now to me, and he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel.

Elisha scolds the king for reacting the way that he does

→ why does he doubt that God can help him?

"he shall know that there is prophet in Israel"

→ affirmative response to the little girl's earlier testimony

GOD ALWAYS PROVES HIMSELF THROUGH HIS PROPHETS!!!

Elisha saw this a great opportunity to bear strong witness for the Lord

→ if Naaman was convicted, how many other Syrians would folllow?

- 2 Kings 5:9-10 King James Version
- 9 So Naaman came with his horses and with his chariot, and stood at the door of the house of Elisha.
- 10 And Elisha sent a messenger unto him, saying, Go and wash in Jordan seven times, and thy flesh shall come again to thee, and thou shalt be clean..

Naaman's arrival at Elisha's house:

- entourage of wealth and power
- → was Elisha impressed with any of that?

NOPE

WILL YOU BE DISTRACTED BY THE GLITZ AND GLAMOUR

WHEN IT'S YOUR TURN TO BEAR WITNESS FOR THE LORD??

Look at what Elisha does:

- he does not go outside and meet Naaman personally
- he sends a messenger to Naaman with a specific command
- only if he follows specific instructions will he be healed

THE FINAL PART OF GOD'S MIRACLES ALWAYS REQUIRES

YOU TO OBEY HIS COMMANDS!!!

LOOK AT HOW NAAMAN RESPONDS!

2 Kings 5:11-12 King James Version 11 But Naaman was wroth, and went away, and said, Behold, I thought, He will surely come out to me, and stand, and call on the name of the Lord his God, and strike his hand over the place, and recover the leper...

12 Are not Abana and Pharpar, rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? may I not wash in them, and be clean? So he turned and went away in a rage.

Naaman's pride → assuming the rivers of Damascus are a better place for healing than in Israel

Naaman's anger → assuming Elisha would personally come outside, pray and heal him

HOW DO YOU REACT WHEN GOD GIVES YOU ORDERS TO FOLLOW?

Proverbs 21:4 King James Version

4 An high look, and a proud heart, and the plowing of the wicked, is sin.

Obadiah 4 King James Version

4 Though thou exalt thyself as the eagle, and though thou set thy nest among the stars, thence will I bring thee down, saith the Lord

Proverbs 6:16-19 King James Version 16 These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: 17 A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, 18 An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief,

19 A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.

2 Kings 5:13-14 King James Version 13 And his servants came near, and spake unto him, and said, My father, if the prophet had bid thee do some great thing, wouldest thou not have done it? how much rather then, when he saith to thee,

Wash, and be clean?

14 Then went he down, and dipped himself seven times in Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God: and his flesh came again like unto the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.

WE MEET THE OTHER UNSUNG HEROES OF THIS STORY....

THE UNNAMED, UNKNOWN SERVANTS

They urge Naaman to calm down and control his emotions

- they ask Naaman, wouldn't you pay and price to be healed?
- → so why is he getting so upset when told to do a simple thing?

THE SERVANTS WORDS RING TRUE TO THIS DAY!!!!

2 Kings 5:15-16 King James Version

15 And he returned to the man of God, he and all his company, and came, and stood before him: and he said, Behold, now I know that there is no God in all the earth, but in Israel: now therefore, I pray thee, take a blessing of thy servant.

16 But he said, As the Lord liveth, before whom I stand, I will receive none. And he urged him to take it; but he refused.

Naaman realizes his previous error, and goes back to Elisha for forgiveness

attempt to pay Elisha, who refuses

SALVATION IS FREE!!!

IT CAN NOT BE BOUGHT!!!!

SALVATION IS FREE!!!

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2 Kings 5:17-18 King James Version

17 And Naaman said, Shall there not then, I pray thee, be given to thy servant two mules' burden of earth? for thy servant will henceforth offer neither burnt offering nor sacrifice unto other gods, but unto the Lord.

18 In this thing the Lord pardon thy servant, that when my master goeth into the house of Rimmon to worship there, and he leaneth on my hand, and I bow myself in the house of Rimmon: when I bow down myself in the house of Rimmon, the Lord pardon thy servant in this thing.

Naaman accepts Elisha's refusal of payment, but asks for 2 favors:

- enough dirt from Elisha's house to build an altar for sacrifice
- → ask God for forgiveness when he has to join the Syrian king in religious services for the false god Rimmon

2 Kings 5:19 King James Version 19 And he said unto him, Go in peace. So he departed from him a little way.

Elisha announces his blessings upon Naaman

- → "go in peace"
- → Naaman is one of the first evangelists!!!!

NAAMAN'S LEPROSY IS HEALED, AND HIS FAITH IS REWARDED!!!

BUT THE STORY ISN'T OVER!!!!

2 Kings 5:20-21 King James Version 20 But Gehazi, the servant of Elisha the man of God, said, Behold, my master hath spared Naaman this Syrian, in not receiving at his hands that which he brought: but, as the Lord liveth, I will run after him, and take somewhat of him.

21 So Gehazi followed after Naaman. And when Naaman saw him running after him, he lighted down from the chariot to meet him, and said, Is all well?

Ghazi, Elisha's servant, had heard the entire situation regarding Naaman and Elisha

- → he runs off to find Naaman, determined to get something of tangible value from him
- Gehazi's greed and lust exposed

Naaman sees him and asks a simple question, "Is all well?"

ON THE ROAD HOME FROM GOD'S BLESSINGS, WATCH OUT FOR THOSE

WHO WILL TRY AND TAKE IT FROM YOU!!!!

Proverbs 28:25 King James Version 25 He that is of a proud heart stirreth up strife: but he that putteth his trust in the Lord shall be made fat.

Hebrews 13:5 King James Version 5 Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will

never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

Proverbs 15:27 King James Version 27 He that is greedy of gain troubleth his own house; but he that hateth gifts shall live.

LOOK AT HOW LOW GEHAZI SINKS TO GET WHAT HE WANTS

2 Kings 5:22 King James Version

22 And he said, All is well. My master hath sent me, saying, Behold, even now there be come to me from mount Ephraim two young men of the sons of the prophets: give them, I pray thee, a talent of silver, and two changes of garments.

3 lies are told:

- said that Elisha sent him
- said that 2 young prophets needed financial help
- → said Elisha requested 75 pounds of silver and 2 sets of clothing

2 Kings 5:23-24 King James Version

23 And Naaman said, Be content, take two talents. And he urged him, and bound two talents of silver in two bags, with two changes of garments, and laid them upon two of his servants; and they bare them before him.

24 And when he came to the tower, he took them from their hand, and bestowed them in the house: and he let the men go, and they departed.

Naaman, thankful for what Elisha has done for him, gives double the amount of money and clothing asked for

he also assigns a couple soldiers to go with Gehazi back home, since he was traveling alone and might get attacked

WHAT DOES GEHAZI DO WHEN HE GETS HOME?

→ Takes the gifts from the men, send them back to Naaman, and hides the money and clothing

WHEN YOU'VE HELPED PEOPLE IN THE PAST, HOW MANY OF THEM

LIED AND HID THE BLESSINGS THAT YOU GAVE THEM??

2 Kings 5:25-26 King James Version
25 But he went in, and stood before his master. And Elisha said unto him, Whence comest thou, Gehazi? And he said, Thy servant went no whither.

26 And he said unto him, Went not mine heart with thee, when the man turned again from his chariot to meet thee? Is it a time to receive money, and to receive garments, and oliveyards, and vineyards, and sheep, and oxen, and menservants, and maidservants?

Elisha asks Gehazi where has he been

→ Gehazi lies

→ Elisha knew right away and calls out his treachery

GEHAZI'S ULTIMATE PUNISHMENT:

GENERATIONAL LEPROSY FOR HIS ENTIRE BLOODLINE FOREVER!!!!

DIPPED AND DELIVERED....

DECEIVED AND DISEASED

WHAT WILL GOD'S MIRACLE EXPOSE IN YOU TODAY??

WILL YOU BE LIKE GEHAZI AND TRADE DIVINE FAVOR

FOR WORLDLY GAIN??

WILL YOU BE LIKE PRIDEFUL NAAMAN?

WHO WALKED AWAY ANGRY

WHEN HE WAS TOLD TO DO SOMETHING SIMPLE?

LET US CHOOSE TO BE LIKE HUMBLED AND HEALED NAAMAN!!!

WHEN HE DIPPED IN OBEDIENCE, HE WAS HEALED INSTANTLY!!!

REMEMBER THE TESTIMONIES AND FAITH OF THE LITTLE SLAVE GIRL

AND NAAMAN'S SERVANTS!!!!

REMEMBER WHEN NAAMAN ASKED AREN'T THE RIVERS OF DAMASCUS

BETTER SUITED FOR HEALING THAN THE ONES IN ISRAEL??

YOUR MIRACLE ISN'T WAITING ON A NEW RIVER....

IT'S WAITING ON YOUR OBEDIENCE!!!!

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