

2 Kings 5

King James Version (KJV)

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. (Lepers were exiled from the others. Syria had been fighting the Assyrians at this time)

(Jesus also spoke of this) see Luke-4:27

²And 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. (She became her slave)

³And 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. (my lord - Naaman) (Unfortunately, the maid's faith is in Elisha, not in God)

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

⁵And 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. (That was a lot of gifts for the time)

⁶And 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.

⁷And 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 is likely Jehoram, the son of Ahab)

(The Hebrew word for Leprosy means "struck, or stricken" as by God. Therefore the people believed that only God could cure it. Jehoram thinks that Naaman is there to spy or for some other reason; and that the leprosy is just an excuse to enter the country)

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. (As opposed to the hundreds of Baal prophets that the king had)

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. (This cure depends on Naaman having the faith to do what Elisha asked of him)

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. (This ego maniac <Naaman> wants a big production. God doesn't do circus side shows. At least Naaman knows of Yahoveh - the God of heaven and earth)

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. (The river won't cure him; God will)

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? (My father – my lord, my counselor – a term of honor) (The servants are trying to talk some sense to Naaman. They are saying – try it. What do you have to lose?)

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. (Thia was another miracle cure by God)

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. (His spiritual eyes are now open. He wants to give the payment to Elisha)

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. (God cured Naaman, it wasn't Elisha. He gave the credit to God; where it belongs. This was a good lesson for Naaman)

See Mathew-10:8 (Jesus said - Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give)

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. (Naaman wants to take soil from Israel back home so he can sacrifice to Yahoveh, standing on Israeli soil. He saw Yahoveh as the God of Israel, only; instead of the God of heaven and earth)

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 will be forced to bow down to Rimmon <a false god of Syria> with the king in Syria. He's asking that God forgive him for that because he will have no choice but to obey the king)

¹⁹ And he said unto him, Go in peace. So he departed from him a little way. (It's not where you worship. It's Who you worship)

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. (Gehazi got greedy. Selling salvation is against God's commandments)

NOTE: (The TV preachers today need to make note of these verses. They demand payment for selling "tickets to heaven"; as if God would honor those crooks)

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?

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. (Gehazi was making up a story to get some

money for himself. This will make Elisha <a prophet of Yahoveh> look bad in the eyes of Naaman)

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. (Naaman is being generous; giving Gehazi more than he asked)

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. (the tower = a secret place; a hiding place – bad translation)

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. (Now he's lying to Elisha to cover up what he's done)

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? (Do we now charge people payment for God's salvation?)

²⁷ The leprosy therefore of Naaman shall cleave unto thee, and unto thy seed for ever. And he went out from his presence a leper as white as snow. (He paid a high price for that silver and raiment)