

to Israel to worship. Naaman's constant desire to go to Israel to worship God would not have been understood by the king of Aram.

Naaman also knows when he gets back home his job places him "in the world". He asks that the Lord forgive him when he enters the temple of the Aramean god, Rimmon. Naaman knows that he will have to escort his master, the King of Aram to the temple to worship. Naaman pleads for forgiveness for going into the temple of a false god and bowing down before it. Naaman knows in his heart that he will never again worship a false god and Elisha knows this also. Elisha reassures him and Naaman heads for home. Naaman is now a servant of the Lord God.

Paradoxes:

1. It's possible to be _____ but miserable (v. 1)
2. It's possible to be unknown but _____ (vv. 2-3)
3. It's possible to be _____ but useless (vv. 4-9)
4. It's possible to do something simple but be _____
_____ (vv. 8-15)

God works in mysterious ways (sometimes).

The humbling of Naaman, a great man:

1. He accepted the testimony of a servant girl.
2. He discovered it was not an important man (K. of Is.) who could heal him.
3. He discovered he could not buy his cleansing.
4. He heard the cure from a messenger, not the actual prophet.
5. He had to wash in a despised little muddy river.
6. He had to heed the advice of his servants.
7. He had to obey.

Verses 20-27: The rest of the story and yet _____ servant...

Series: Biblical Gen. Ed.

Title: God Works In Mysterious Ways

Topic: The humbling of one man



Getting up to speed: Israel has been divided into two kingdoms for a while. Northern part is Israel, southern is Judah. The time of our text is about 850 BC. We are about in the middle of the portion of Kings that shows us about the influence of Elisha (2 K. 2:1-9:13).

Lesson:

2 Kings 5:1-3: An important man has a _____.

Aram was a country Northeast of Israel in the land which would later be called Syria.

An unlikely person has the _____.

She had been torn away from her family (who may have been killed in the raid or sold as slaves themselves). She had been forcibly removed from her home. She had been stolen out of Israel.

Servant girl: Sometimes mighty doors swing on small hinges.

Verses 4-7: The _____ person is sought.

There was a huge amount of gold and silver...about 900 lbs. plus impressive clothing. This would have been a sizeable caravan.

There was no cure for leprosy and the King of Israel was very much aware of that fact. Only God could cure leprosy and the King of Israel was not God. The conclusion that he came to was that the King of Aram was trying to provoke a war.

Just how cooperative would that army standing outside the doors become when they found out that Naaman could not be healed? So, the King of Israel tore his clothes and mourned.

***Readers would know that both Elijah and Elisha have raised someone from the dead. *Can I kill and bring back to life?* Did the king not know this...or did he refuse to seek out Elisha?

What about us? It is easy to look at our troubles and problems (and perceived circumstances) and forget to look to God.

“What would happen if we jumped into God’s lap instead of jumping to conclusions?”

“If we spent more time on our knees, we wouldn’t fall down as much.” Unknown authors

Verses 8-10: The true prophet is found.

And now Naaman is directed to Elisha’s house. Hope was reborn. Imagine the nervous excitement as Naaman stood at Elisha’s door and politely knocked.

“They are waiting for the prophet to come outside and heal Naaman. Their expectations are high, and they can barely contain their excitement. What will the prophet do? What will he say? Will he be flashy and glittery with a fancy expensive haircut slicked back like the faith healers back home? Will he put on a show to awe them with his power? Would people fall down backwards and be slain in the spirit in a true showman style? Lights! Cameras! Action! Naaman could hardly wait.”

Ever been there?

- Have you ever been angry at God because He did not answer your prayer in the way that you wanted Him to answer your prayer?
- Maybe you thought that He didn't even answer your prayer at all.
- Did you feel like God was sending you back home empty handed?

We don't always see what God is doing in our lives, just as Naaman could not see what God was doing in his life,

Verses 11-14: An assumption leads to _____...and then a cure.

We can look in on this story and see that God was probably in the process of removing Naaman's _____.

For us: If God is removing something from your life, you don't need it.

Naaman thought about his servant’s remarks. He realized that his servants were right. .

1st Naaman lost his _____.

2nd Naaman lost his _____.

3rd Naaman lost his _____.

Verses 15-19: A truly _____ man.

Naaman now knows that the true God is the God of Israel, not Aram. So he asks to bring a little of Israel back to Aram. This way he can at least build an altar to God on Israel's soil, without having to go