



The Story of a General's and a Prophet's Servants

2 Kings 5:1–27 (NIV)

A Brief Review

- Living water hardens the hearts of those who choose not to accept it.
- Living water is offensive because it does not reward merit, power, or success.
- Living water liberates if accepted.

Verse 1

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.

- Naaman was the commander of the armies of Ben-Hadad II, the king of Aram-Damascus in the time of King Joram of Israel.
- Joram ruled the northern kingdom from about 852–841 B.C.
- Aram and Israel had been in conflict for some time. King Ahab's life ended in a battle that Naaman likely led.
- Naaman means "pleasantness."

Leprosy can be anything that _____ and _____.

Verse 2-3

Now bands of raiders from Aram had gone out and had taken captive a young girl from Israel, and she served Naaman's wife, she said to her mistress, "If only my master would see the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy."

Servant Example #1: The Faithful Slave Girl from Israel

- Our witness matters and our integrity can speak powerfully.
- Difficult circumstances can be fertile ground for healing.

_____ is poured out through others. God initiated the entire process of Naaman's salvation through a lowly slave girl who served her captors with compassion.

Verses 9-12

So Naaman went with his horses and chariots and stopped at the door of Elisha's house. 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."

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. 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.

- God wounds our personal and national pride.
- God sets before us a simple choice: obey or disobey?
- God heals us when we realize it's not about preserving our way of life, but of living a godly life.

Living water flows only in the _____ God sets.

Verses 13-14

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 it tells you, "Wash and be cleansed!" So he went down and dipped himself in the Jordan river seven times, as the man of God had told him, and his flesh was restored and became clean like that of a young boy.

Servant Example #2: Naaman's Faithful Traveling Servants

- We can be a non-anxious presence when passions run high, seeing past a person's haughtiness to see their hurt.
- Our well-timed counsel can keep people from making choices they might later regret.

Being cleansed is an experience of _____.

From what is God is calling you to be cleansed?

Who are the faithful servants in your life?

Verses 15-16

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 this gift from your servant." 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. "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."

- A true servant of God doesn't serve others for a reward or to show off. Elisha made it clear that God was behind this healing.
- Elisha's response teaches us that the greatest gift we can give to a servant of God is to serve others as we've been served.
- A tangible reminder of our cleansing reminds us of our identity as a people claimed and redeemed by a faithful God.

Verses 19-20 and 25-27

After Naaman had traveled some distance, Gehazi, the servant of Elisha the man of God, said to himself, "My master was too easy on Naaman, this Aramean, by not accepting from him what he brought. As surely as the LORD lives, I will run after him and get something from him."

When he went in and stood before his master, Elisha asked him, "Where have you been, Gehazi?"

"Your servant didn't go anywhere," Gehazi answered.

But Elisha said to him, "Was not my spirit with you when the man got down from his chariot to meet you? Is this the time to take money or to accept clothes—or olive groves and vineyards, or flocks and herds, or male and female slaves? Naaman's leprosy will cling to you and to your descendants forever." Then Gehazi went from Elisha's presence and his skin was leprous—it had become as white as snow.

Servant Example #3: The Prophet's Faithless Servant

- Greed compromises our witness and, in Gehazi's case, could have seriously done damage to Naaman's newfound faith.
- The insider who sought to exclude and define the boundaries of God's saving grace swapped places with Naaman.
- This story acts as a parable for Jesus that God seeks out all people who will accept living water (Luke 4:27).

The gospel is God's cure for spiritual leprosy.

We are cured to be servants.

Who in your life do you need to lead to living water?