

III. The Stories true Hero

Now bands of raiders from Aram had gone out and had taken captive a young girl from Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. **3** She said to her mistress, "If only my master would see the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy." Vs.2,3

Her whole life's been robbed from her, everything taken from her. And who above all others is responsible for this lost life?

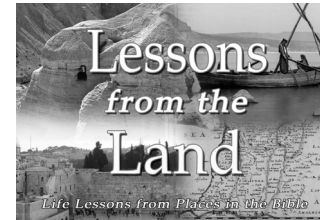
The supreme military commander of the armies of Aram.
Naaman.

How does she respond to it?

"If **only** my master would see the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy." Vs 3

She loved him, when he wasn't worthy of any of her love.

She forgave him at tremendous cost to herself and in doing so she gave him life. That's why he was saved.



How Do You Know You're Not Missing God? 2 Kings 5:1-19

The Story of Naaman a Most Unlikely Convert to Meet God
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. 2 Kings 5;1

"If only my master would see the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy." Vs. 3

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." Vs. 10

So he went down and dipped himself in the Jordan seven times, as the man of God had told him, and his flesh was restored and became clean like that of a young boy. Vs 14

I. The Marks of a Person Who Has Met God

1. It will change how you _____.

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 a gift from your servant."

2 Kings 5:15

2. It will change your attitude about

_____ & _____.
So please accept a gift from your servant.” 2 Kings 5:15b

(Earlier in the story)

So Naaman left, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold and ten sets of clothing. 2 Kings 5:5

More to this passage:

So please accept a gift from your servant.” 2 Kings 5:15b

3. It will cause you to center all your life

_____.
But Elisha replied, “As surely as the Lord lives, whom I serve, I will not accept any gifts.” And though Naaman urged him to take the gift, Elisha refused. Vs 16

Then Naaman said, “All right, but please allow me to load two of my mules with earth from this place, and I will take it back home with me. From now on I will never again offer burnt offerings or sacrifices to any other god except the Lord. 18 However, may the Lord pardon me in this one thing: When my master the king goes into the temple of the god Rimmon to worship there and leans on my arm, may the Lord pardon me when I bow, too.” “Go in peace,” Elisha said. Vs 17-19

What’s going on here?

II. The Contrast of those that don’t know God

Let’s look for a moment at Elisha’s assistant Gehazi.

“As surely as the Lord lives, whom I serve, I will not accept any gifts.” And though Naaman urged him to take the gift, Elisha refused. 2 Kings 5:16

(Elisha speaking with Gehazi after he lied)

Is this the time to receive money and clothing, olive groves and vineyards, sheep and cattle, and male and female servants? Vs 26

Why did Elisha think it wrong to accept gifts in this situation?

1. Gehazi _____ on Naaman.

But Gehazi, the servant of Elisha, the man of God, said to himself, “My master should not have let this **Aramean** get away without accepting any of his gifts. Vs 20

2. Gehazi true religion was selfish greed.

my master has sent me to tell you that two young prophets from the hill country of Ephraim have just arrived. He would like 75 pounds of silver and two sets of clothing to give to them.” Vs.22

“By all means, take twice as much silver,” Naaman insisted. ...Gehazi took the gifts from the servants and sent the men back. Then he went and hid the gifts inside the house. Vs 23,24