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Reading: 2 Kings 5v1-19

Word of God discounted and men and women make excuses not to believe.

In Luke 4v27, the Lord Jesus refers to this, giving us Divine confirmation that this account is more than a story but has a lesson for us. No lepers were healed in Israel but just this man who was a Syrian by birth.

God prepared to provide healing to the one who sought the God of Israel.

Men like Naaman were few and far between – a great mighty man of valour and honourable. He had everything going for him. He had outstanding ability.

Cloud cast over whole scene by the words “but he was a leper”. No means humanly speaking of healing, disease which eats the body and ultimately causes death.

Lepers were healed by the Lord Jesus by the touch and by the word.

In Leviticus chapters 13 and 14, a leper was to be separated from society to live in exile.

Leprosy is a picture of sin. That which starts in a small and innocent way and takes the whole life.

In James 1:15, we learn that “sin when it is finished bringeth forth death”

The wonder of the gospel is that the Grace of God has been opened to mankind.

“But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound” (man thrives in the pathway of sin)

There was and still is provision of escape from such a state.

Naaman's life was blighted and he would become increasingly aware of his inability to cure the situation. In God's grace, He brings the little maid into Naaman's life. She bears the good news to her mistress with no if's and but's.

Word gets to Naaman and to the king.

Many have no time for the Son of God and the salvation He provided at Calvary.

The message comes and he acts upon it straight away, seeking healing. We should not disregard the warnings we are given through the word of God.

The message was not obeyed. The letters were sent to the wrong person in the wrong place. Naaman

takes the wrong present.

Nevertheless Elisha gets to hear of the situation and asks why the king rent his clothes and instructs Naaman to be sent to him.

Men seek satisfaction in the pleasure of this world or in the creeds of religious systems.

There is Someone in heaven tonight who has provided the answer and is ready and waiting to receive the repentant sinners.

Only one appointed way God works and it is contained in the word of God

John 14v6 reminds us that there is only one divinely appointed way.

Things around will never lead to eternal value.

Elisha sends a message out rather than going himself

Naaman is given simple instructions “go wash in Jordan seven times and thy skin will be clean”. The promise was there. The instructions seemed too simple.

Naaman refuses because of the condition of the river Jordan. He wanted to use a river in Damascus.

When people are challenged to come to the foot of the cross to see what Christ has done there ????

God in Christ has done everything for the sinner but the sinner needs to come in faith and obedience.

Counting work of Calvary as something of no account will lead to our eternal damnation

Naaman did not want to do what he as told.

Many hear of the gospel but obey not what they are told.

Some come to him and take him aside and question why he had not done it. He then decides to submit.

God in Christ has done everything at calvary but many wont accept they are sinners and seek to go their own way. They will hear the words of Christ “Depart form Me I never knew you”.

This is the only answer He came from the heights of glory to die on Calvary.

In Acts 4v12, we learn “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”

it demanded complete and utter obedience - 6 times would not suffice but 7 resulted in the perfect work.

When Christ comes in and cleanses the individual of sin it is like being "born again" (John 3:7; 2 Cor 5:17)

God will not payment twice demand
Once at His hand and once at mine.

Of the Lord Jesus, we read, "once in the end of the age has He appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself" (Heb. 9:26)

We may have tried and failed time and time again to break the bondage of sin. Only the power of Christ can do it. When we receive Him, the Spirit of God comes in enabling you to live a life only he can give,

Naaman realises that he cannot go back to Israel and live as he did before. An evidence of the change in the heart and life.

Hallmark of one who has been saved, brought out of world and into fellowship of Christ.

By God's grace deliverance was found.

Work of Christ has furnished for all mankind deliverance from the power of sin.

Another opportunity is now given but don't know what a day may hold (2 Cor 6:2)

James warns "the coming of the Lord draweth nigh" (James 5:8). We must "flee wrath to come" (Matt 3:7).

Tonight may be your last opportunity to trust Christ.

"Boast not self of tomorrow" (Prov 27:1) - tomorrow's sun may never rise for you.

Be wise, come to Christ. Enter into joy of sins forgiven and peace with God. To have Christ means to have everything.

Romans 6 verse 23 teaches us that the power of Christ will change the life now and assure life in the future.

Do you know sins forgiven and peace with God?