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Reading: 2 Kings 5 v 1-19

Naaman - He is the captain of the army of Syria. There is a "but" in his life. He had a reputation of being a great man before his master. It was nothing in the light of the "but". He was a good man, an honourable man. He had done great things and was a mighty man of valour. The "but" takes precedence.

We all have a "but" in our lives. It doesn't matter how good or upright we are. The "but" is called sin. In Naaman's case the "but" was an illness; a horrific disease: Leprosy. He would have been separated from others.

Sin separates - makes us unclean, "We are as an unclean thing" (Isa 64:6)

Sin brings in barriers in our lives. A barrier between us and God. Sin tarnishes everything and makes us unclean in the sight of God, "All righteousness as filthy rags" (Isa 64:6)

Leprosy was a fatal disease. A message came to him from a captive maid. She directed him to a person - the prophet.

The Gospel is centred in a person not just a prophet - The Lord Jesus Christ. He brings to us the unfolding revelation of who God is and what He is like. The person we would point you to is the very Son of God, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Salvation comes through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

If you want to know joy tonight it comes from the sacrifice He made on the cross of Calvary. He died in shame, agony and humiliation. Our sins can be cleansed and we can be saved because of what the Saviour did.

There was certainty in the girl's message to Naaman about the ability of the prophet to heal him. If you come to Christ for cleansing you will know peace.

"He that believeth in the Son hath everlasting life" (John 3:36)

Acts 16:31

There is absolute certainty

"Him that cometh unto me I will in no wise cast out".

"whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Rom 10:13)

The girl gave a message of compassion to Naaman. She turned away from her family and friends to wait on strangers. Yet she gives them the answer - she could not keep it to herself.

The Gospel is for everybody. We should tell and warn people about the penalty of sin. Our compassion is nothing compared to the love of God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

There are three lessons to learn:

1 - Naaman initially went to the wrong person - the king.

People in the world try the wrong person "no other name under heaven" (Acts 4:12). There is only one way. One person who can help, cure and cleanse sin.

Naaman took a fortune with him to the King but it was Elisha the prophet who could help him.

2 - Naaman went away in a rage. He had pride. He thought he was better than that and wanted more fuss. The pathway of cleansing - He was to wash in the Jordan 7 times.

He had to be obedient to God. The way of Salvation is no different. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shall be saved" (Acts 16:31). If you want Salvation you have to do it God's way.

3 - All roads go to the same place. He thought there were better rivers to wash in.

"I am the way the truth and the life" (John 14:6)

All roads will not lead to God. There is only one way into heaven because of the grace of God. Doing what God says and trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ.

The message is so simple

"Believe" and be saved.

Do not have to climb Everest, give money away or walk over hot coals. Some people think it is too easy and want to do something to earn it.

"By grace are ye saved through faith" (Eph 2:8)

Blessing came in obedience. When he did what he was told he came out better than he was before. God cleanses completely.

2 Cor 5 v 17

"New creation"

He gives new life. New creation in Christ. Salvation is a gift. He tried to give Elisha something but Salvation is free.