

Date: April 15th 2012
Reading: 2 Kings 5
Speaker: John Campbell
Subject: Naaman

Naaman was a great man, highly esteemed and honourable. There was a BUT: he was a leper. Leprosy starts with a small spot that is almost unnoticeable but it grows until the whole body is covered. Limbs may need to be amputated. In those days, a leper would not live for long.

We are going to look at:

1. The Plague that Haunted him
2. The Pride that Hindered him
3. The Power that Healed him.

1. Naaman knew that his leprosy could be fatal. It is a picture of sin because it begins as a small spot but then spreads. Sin often starts as a little action in a child but it can grow until the life is in its grip. The poet says:

Sow a thought, reap an action
Sow an action, reap a habit
Sow a habit, reap a character
Sow a character, reap a destiny

We can try to cover our sin, but it cannot be hidden.

Naaman would long for deliverance. He might try to cover the spot as long as possible but there was no answer. We have a choice with sin. We can cover, but we shall not prosper or we can confess and forsake it and find mercy (Prov 28:13, 1 John 1:9).

A servant girl told that the prophet would heal him. We do not know how she knew this as no leper had been healed. She trusted God. Today, there is an answer to sin because of the Man of Calvary.

2. Naaman eventually came to the door of the prophet. He was told, "Go and wash seven times in Jordan". He was angry. He had his own ideas. He thought the prophet would do what he asked. We can be like this with our sin. We may think that we are not a big sinner. We forget that all sin affects every part of our life. We need to be delivered from sin. God offered complete cleansing and deliverance. He makes a new man, but we must be born again (John 3:3,7). If we repent and trust Christ, we are made a new creation. We must set aside the pride of our efforts and recognise that we need the power of God. Even after he had been cleansed, he still wanted to do something to earn salvation.. He had to learn that we cannot buy salvation, we cannot earn it. The Lord told the Jews that the work of God was to believe on Him (John 6:29). God's thoughts are not ours (Isa 55:7).

Naaman proved the power of God to deliver if we take Him at His word and bow to His authority. We can all do this, but we need to:

- a. Accept what God says
- b. Act on it

The command is simple and unambiguous. Naaman was told, "Wash and be clean", we are told "Believe and be saved" (Acts 16:31), "Repent and be converted" (Acts 3:19)

Many may believe but they are still not saved because they do not commit themselves to Christ. You must obey the gospel and trust Him or face the judgement of God. Nothing happened until Naaman did what he was told. We must act on what we hear.