

# The Mistakes of Naaman

2 Kings 5:1-14

---

## INTRODUCTION:

A. **2 Kings 5:1-14** – “Now Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Syria, was a great and honorable man in the eyes of his master, because by him the LORD had given victory to Syria. He was also a mighty man of valor, but a leper.

2 And the Syrians had gone out on raids, and had brought back captive a young girl from the land of Israel. She waited on Naaman's wife.

3 Then she said to her mistress, "If only my master were with the prophet who is in Samaria! For he would heal him of his leprosy."

4 And Naaman went in and told his master, saying, "Thus and thus said the girl who is from the land of Israel."

5 Then the king of Syria said, "Go now, and I will send a letter to the king of Israel." So he departed and took with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten changes of clothing.

6 Then he brought the letter to the king of Israel, which said, Now be advised, when this letter comes to you, that I have sent Naaman my servant to you, that you may heal him of his leprosy.

7 And it happened, when the king of Israel read the letter, that he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to kill and make alive, that this man sends a man to me to heal him of his leprosy? Therefore please consider, and see how he seeks a quarrel with me."

8 So it was, when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, that he sent to the king, saying, "Why have you torn your clothes? Please let him come to me, and he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel."

9 Then Naaman went with his horses and chariot, and he stood at the door of Elisha's house.

10 And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored to you, and you shall be clean."

11 But Naaman became furious, and went away and said, "Indeed, I said to myself, 'He will surely come out to me, and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, and wave his hand over the place, and heal the leprosy.'

12 Are not the Abanah and the Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?" So he turned and went away in a rage.

13 And his servants came near and spoke to him, and said, "My father, if the prophet had told you to do something great, would you not have done it?"

How much more then, when he says to you, ‘Wash, and be clean’?”

14 So he went down and dipped seven times in the Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God; and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.

B. **Romans 15:4** – “For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.”

1. Certainly this is true in the case of Naaman.
2. Our lesson text exposes a number of mistakes that Naaman made.
3. His mistakes have their counterparts throughout the ages and our present world today.
4. His mistakes are commonly made by men today.
5. By studying the mistakes of Naaman we can learn what he did that was wrong and warn people of today . . . yea, and all present here this hour . . . Against committing the same.
6. Let us notice Naaman’s case.

### NAAMAN NEEDED HELP

A. **2 Kings 5:1** – “Now Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Syria, was a great and honorable man in the eyes of his master, because by him the LORD had given victory to Syria. He was also a mighty man of valor, **but a leper.**”

1. Only God could provide a cure.
2. People today have a leprosy of the soul . . . SIN!
3. People today are lost in sin and only God can provide the cure . . . forgiveness of sin.
  - a. **Romans 3:23** – “For **all** have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”
  - b. **Romans 6:23** – “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
  - c. NOTE: The gift of God is the cure that comes from God.
  - d. Only What God has sent can cure the leprosy (SIN) of the soul.  
**John 3:16-17** – “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.”

### 1<sup>ST</sup> MISTAKE . . . NAAMAN WENT TO THE WRONG MAN FOR HELP

A. **2 Kings 5:6** – “Then he brought the letter to the king of Israel, which said, Now be advised, when this letter comes to you, that I have sent Naaman my servant to you, that you may heal him of his leprosy.”

1. The king did not have the power to heal Naaman.

2. God had not given the king the power to heal Naaman of his leprosy.
- B. For their spiritual healing people today go to various ones other than to Jesus Christ Himself.
  1. People go to manmade priests.
  2. People go to “pastors” in the religious world.
  3. People go to parents, grandparents, and other relatives.
  4. People go to their friends.
  5. People go to Mohammed . . . Buddha . . . cult leaders.
- C. Listening friends . . . wrong sources will not provide the right solution.
  1. **John 16:6** – “Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.’”
  2. **Matthew 17:5** – God said “. . . This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. **Hear Him!**”
  3. **John 6:63** – “. . . The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.”
- D. Do not make the mistake of going to wrong religious sources for right religious information.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> MISTAKE . . . NAAMAN LEARNED THAT HIS CLEANSING WAS CONDITIONAL

- A. **2 Kings 5:10** – “And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, ‘Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored to you, and you shall be clean.’”
  1. There were some things Naaman had to do rather than just some things he had to know or think.
  2. God’s messenger **TO** him had God instructions **FOR** him.
  3. He had to follow the instructions of God’s prophet to be cleansed.
- B. God must be obeyed in the way He commands us to be obeyed.
  1. **Hebrews 5:9** – “And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who **obey Him.**”
  2. **Matthew 7:21** – “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but **he who does the will of My Father in heaven.**”
  3. People today must obey Christ in order to be forgiven of sins . . . to be cured of their spiritual leprosy, if you please.
- C. Do not make the mistake of believing that people do not have to obey the gospel in order to be saved. God has done His part . . . Now, we must do ours.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> MISTAKE . . . NAAMAN BECAME ANGRY

- A. **2 Kings 5:11** – “But Naaman became furious, and went away . . .”
  1. Naaman did not like the instructions he received.
  2. Naaman did not like the solution he was told.

3. Naaman did not like the idea that he would have to put forth effort to do something rather than just have Elisha do something to him and for him.
  4. Not getting what he thought the solution should be, he became angry.
  5. Friends, in his anger he was still a leper.
- B. Many become angry today when they hear the truth of God's Word.
- C. They become angry when they hear what God really wants them to do because it is different than what they thought they should be able to do.
1. **Acts 22:16** – “And now why are you waiting? Arise and **be baptized**, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”  
Did Saul do that? **Acts 9:18** - “. . . And he arose and **was baptized.**”
    - a. People are angry at the thought that they have to go to water in order to be cleansed of their sins.
    - b. People are angry at the thought that they have to go down into the water in order to be cleansed of their sins.
    - c. People are angry at the thought that that the Bible requires more of them than they feel that it should . . . or that is needful for them to have to do.
    - d. People are angry because they feel that baptism in water is a work and that one's work and efforts have nothing to do with their being saved.
    - e. They feel the power is in God to save them while overlooking where God has put the power of the cleansing blood of His crucified Son in order for them to show their obedience.
    - f. **1 Corinthians 6:11** – “But **you were washed**, (That was their baptism) but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.”
    - g. **Revelation 1:5** – “. . . To Him who loved us and washed (That was their baptism) us from our sins in His own blood.”
    - h. **Ephesians 5:26** – “That He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word.”
    - i. **Titus 3:5** – “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration (That was their baptism) and renewing of the Holy Spirit.”
  2. Many become angry and are unwilling to accept the Biblical teaching that Christ established only one church.
    1. **Matthew 16:18** – “. . . And on this rock I will build My church . . .”
    2. **Ephesians 1:22-23** - “. . . And gave Him to be head over all things to **the church, which is His body . . .**”
    3. **Ephesians 4:4** – “There is one body . . .”
    4. Many become angry and argumentative when they hear God's truth taught about one church.
- D. Do not make the mistake of becoming angry at God's instructions for what you are to believe and do. **Galatians 4:16** – “Have I therefore become your enemy because I tell you the truth?”

**4<sup>th</sup> MISTAKE . . . NAAMAN WANTED HIS WAY**

- A. **2 Kings 5:11** – “But Naaman became furious, and went away and said, “Indeed, I said to myself, ‘He will surely come out to me, and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, and wave his hand over the place, and heal the leprosy.’”
- B. Naaman had already figured out how he would be cured and no other way would do.
1. A prevalent attitude: “Don confuse me with the facts, my mind is already made up.”
  2. His way would be the right way and surely everyone else would agree.
  3. He was trying to do God’s thinking for Him.
  4. Preconceived ideas are not always accurate ideas. This was certainly true in Naaman’s case.
- C. People today want to be saved, but only according to their own plans.
1. Examples:
    - a. Some want to be saved by “faith only” regardless what other plain passages of Scripture say.
      1. **James 2:24** – “You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only.”
      2. Listening friends, please listen: This is the only time that “faith only” as two words appear in the Bible and they do so to refute “faith only.”
    - b. Some want to have the church of their choice rather than the church of God’s choice. **Ephesians 5:23** – “. . . Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body . . .” “Church” is singular and “body” is singular, and they are one in the same, put there by God’s guiding through divine inspiration.
    - c. Some want to have a Christianity that does not require nor expect any work out of them. **1 Corinthians 15:58** – “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always **abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.**”
  2. Your ideas should be replaced with a “Thus says the Lord.”
- D. Do not make the mistake of wanting to replace God’s way with your own way.

**5<sup>th</sup> MISTAKE . . . NAAMAN WANTED TO SUBSTITUTE**

- A. **2 Kings 5:12** – “Are not the Abanah and the Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?” So he turned and went away in a rage.”
- B. He wanted to substitute a river in Syria for the Jordan River.
- C. Substitution with the wrong thing is a replacement of the right thing . . . And folks, **there is never a right way to do a wrong thing.**

- D. Multitudes today think they can be saved by substituting human things for the things of God. Examples:
1. People want to substitute human creeds for the Bible. **Romans 10:17** – “So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” That passage does not say, nor does it teach, “So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by something other than the Word of God . . . or something substituted for the Word of God.
  2. People want to substitute God’s plan for salvation with their own that eliminates what they don’t like in God’s plan, replacing those things with substitutions that God has never approved.
  3. People want to replace items of worship by substituting what they want rather than what God has commanded.
- E. Some people have taken scissors and literally cut out verses of Scripture that they do not want to be in the Bible.
1. Cutting out of your Bible does not cut the responsibility for what it said, and still says, to you.
  2. When the Books are opened in judgment, there will be no omissions, no scissored out passages of Scripture, but all of the verses will be there in God’s standard for eternal justice.
- F. Do not make the mistake of wanting to substitute human things for the things of God.

### **NAAMAN WAS BLESSED AT OBEDIENCE**

- A. Yes, Naaman was blessed, but only at the time of his obedience.
- 2 Kings 5:14** – “So he went down and dipped seven times in the Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God; and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.”
- Naaman dipped seven times in the Jordan River.
1. Listening friends . . . That was not a mistake!
  2. Listening friends . . . That was obedience!
- B. Naaman had to recognize and accept God’s way and obey it before he was cured of his leprosy.
- C. No one can be saved (cured of their spiritual leprosy, SIN) until he believes what God has said and do what God has commanded.
1. No one can be saved today until he believes God and renders obedience to His divine will.
  2. And what might that divine will be?

#### **HEAR the Gospel . . . It is worth listening to!**

- ➡ **ROMANS 10:17** – Then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.
- ➡ **JOHN 8:32** – You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

**BELIEVE the Gospel . . . It is worth believing!**

- ➡ **HEBREWS 11:6** – But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.
- ➡ **Mark:16:16** – “He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.
- ➡ **ACTS 8:37** – Then Philip said, “If you believe with all your heart, you may.” And he answered and said, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”

**REPENT of Sins . . . Without repentance you sins will destroy you.**

- ➡ **LUKE 13:3, 5** – I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish
- ➡ **ACTS 2:38** –Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- ➡ **ACTS 17:30-31** - Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent,
- ➡ because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.”
- ➡ **2 PETER 3:9** –The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

**CONFESS Christ as the Son of God . . . so He will confess you to His Heavenly Father**

- ➡ **MATTHEW 10:32-33** –Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven.  
But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.
- ➡ **ROMANS 10:10** - With the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.
- ➡ **ACTS 8:37** –Then Philip said, “If you believe with all your heart, you may.” And he answered and said, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”

**BE BAPTIZED (Immersed in water) for the remission of sins . . . It is not the water that saves you but the cleansing power of the precious blood of Jesus Christ that God appropriates to your sins in the act of baptism.**

**The place of your baptism is parallel to Naaman's Jordan River. Both were, and are, directed by God.**

- ➡ **ACTS 2:38** –Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- ➡ **1 PETER 3:21** - There is also an antitype which now saves us – baptism(not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,
- ➡ **ACTS 22:16** - . . . Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.
- ➡ **MARK 16:16** - He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.
- ➡ **GALATIANS 3:27** - as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.
- ➡ **ROMANS 6:3-5** - Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?  
Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.  
For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection.
- ➡ **COLOSSIANS 2:12** – Buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

**CONCLUSION:**

- A. Listening friends, do not make the mistakes that Naaman made.
  1. Don't go to the wrong sources for spiritual help.
  2. Don't refuse to do the things God has asked you to do in order to be cleansed.
  3. Don't become angry in learning God's will, even though it does not coincide with your preconceived ideas.
  4. Don't demand it your way . . . Submit to God's way.
  5. Don't try to substitute error for truth.
- B. Let us learn from Naaman that we must go to God and follow His plan in order to be forgiven of our sins . . . enjoy His spiritual blessings here . . . and live with Him in Heaven after a while.
- C. **Will you come in obedience to Jesus Christ right now?**