

Pride, Obedience, and a Pile of Dirt

NorthRidge Church

Dr. Don Maiden, Life Groups Pastor

September 3, 2017

Sir if the prophet had told you to do something very difficult, wouldn't you have done it?

So you should certainly obey him when he says simply, 'Go and wash and be cured!'

- 2Kings 5:1-19 (13)

Some Observations about this Story:

- Much good comes as a result of weakness - 5:1-5 (Romans 8:28; 2Cor. 12:9)
- There's often spiritual dimness to otherwise smart people when God is not King in their lives - 5:6-8 (1Cor. 2:14) – 5:14-17

What We Learn from Naaman

1. The _____ of Pride

Pride _____ Access to God's Favor and Blessings – 5:9-13.

- **C.S. Lewis:** "If you want to find out how proud you are the easiest way is to ask yourself, 'How much do I dislike it when other people snub me, or refuse to take any notice of me, or stick their nose in my business, or patronize me, or show off?' The point is that each person's pride is in competition with everyone else's pride."
- "Pride goes before destruction and an arrogant spirit before a fall." – Proverbs 16:8
- "Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he falls." – 1 Corinthians 10:12
- "Pride and arrogance, the evil way and the mulish mouth I hate." Says the Lord – Proverbs 8:13
- "Do you see a man wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him." – Proverbs 26:12
- "When pride comes, then comes shame; but with the humble is wisdom." – Proverbs 11:2

2. The _____ of Obedience

Obedience Brings God's _____ & _____ - 5:14-15

3. The _____ of a pile of dirt

What Might Naaman Have Wanted With That Pile Of Dirt? - 5:16-17

WHAT IS YOUR NEXT STEP OF OBEDIENCE?

Truth for Life

For the week of September 3, 2017

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. Have you ever had a serious or life-threatening illness? What was it? In one word or short phrase how did it make you feel? Was there any motivation to find an answer for it? How did the illness affect your relationship with God? Did you seek Him for answers? Tell about what you did?
2. Read and think about the young girl in 5:2-3. How do you think you would feel if you had been captured by a band of bandits in modern-day Syria? How did this little girl react to her captivity? Do you ever look for ways to share good news with those who work or live around you? What is the best news you've ever received?
3. Read 5:4-7. Why do you think the King of Syria asked the King of Israel to cure Naaman? Why do you think he did not ask the King for permission to send Naaman to see Elisha? Why do you think the King of Israel acted as he did in 5:7?
4. Read 5:8-14. Of all the responses that people made in the stories in those verses, put in the order the ones you think show the most faith:
 - A.) Elisha vs. 8 & 10
 - B.) Naaman vs. 9, 11-12
 - C.) The servants v. 13
 - D.) Naaman v. 14
5. How did God bless Naaman's obedience? Do you find it difficult to obey God immediately when you know he's asking you to obey him? If obedience is difficult for you, why is that so? Did obedience seem to be difficult for Elisha when he turned down the \$3.5 million worth of gold, silver, and costly clothes? On a scale of 1 to 10 with 10 being the most, how difficult would it have been for you to turn that away?
6. Read 5:17. What do you think is the significance of Naaman's request of a mule train full of dirt from Elisha's property?

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1. The PERILS of Pride

Pride CUTS-OFF Access to God's Favor and Blessings – 5:9-13.

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2. The PROVISIONS of Obedience

Obedience Brings God's FAVOR & BLESSING - 5:14-15

3. The PRICELESSNESS of a pile of dirt

What Might Naaman Have Wanted With That Pile Of Dirt? - 5:16-17

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