

Naaman: Unwanted Healing

A contrast study: power vs. service

2 Kings 5:1-14

By Bob Young

Introduction

With whom do you identify in this story?

- Naaman, leper
 - Commander of army
 - Highly regarded, instrument of God
 - Valiant soldier
 - But....
- A slave girl
 - Israelite maiden
 - Cared for her captors
 - Remembered and trusted God
 - Fulfilled God's purpose in trials
- Naaman's master, King of Aram
 - Interested in well-being of his commander
 - Supported him
 - Did he believe?
- King of Israel
 - Does he believe?
 - Does he not know Israel's history?
 - Why does he only see the external?
- Elisha, man of God, a prophet
 - The prophet urges the king to faith
 - The prophet sees an opportunity
 - The prophet only sends a messenger
 - The prophet's message is not "fancy"
 - The prophet's message is specific
 - The prophet's message is rejected
- Naaman's servants
 - Were more objective than Naaman
 - Gave good advice
 - Gave caring advice
- Gehazi, the servant of Elisha, a selfish man. Will come to him later...

What is this text about? I suggest it is a sermon about attitudes and service.

- **Initial Attitudes**
 - **Naaman is angry, he wanted healing on his terms**
 - **Naaman already had an expectation**
 - **Naaman rejected the healing**
 - **Naaman "went away..."**

- **Changed Attitudes**
 - **Naaman relents and repents**
 - **Naaman obeys**
 - **Naaman is healed**
 - **Naaman believes**
 - **Naaman is grateful**
 - **Naaman is worshipful**
 - **Naaman seeks future forgiveness**

1. Our attitude toward God.

We must develop a conscious awareness of whom we serve, Josh 24:15; 1 K 18:21; Mt 6:24; 2 Tim. 1:12.
The “who” is before the how!

2. Our attitude toward others.

We must develop compassion, does service necessarily require compassion? No, only voluntary service requires compassion. Mt. 5—carry cloak, go extra mile.

3. Our attitude toward service.

Opportunities to serve are not circumstantial, they are intentional.

4. Our attitude toward self.

Do we serve for us or for others?

5. Our attitude toward things.

The Gehazi narrative

- **Gehazi, servant of Elisha**
 - **Makes a selfish decision**
 - **Is dishonest with Naaman**
 - **Is secretive (feels guilty?)**
 - **Is dishonest with Elisha**
 - **Cannot be dishonest with God**

Conclusion

Attitude carries weight with unlikely people.

Attitude is a confirmation of our faith, Jas 2:18

Lessons

Until we accept the fact that we have a problem, we will not seek a solution.

Until we accept the fact that we have a disease, we will not seek cleansing

Until we accept the fact that we have sin, we will not seek pardon

Until we hear the truth, we will not discover the way to relief.

Until we come to the end of ourselves, we are not ready to go God’s way.

Until we commit to doing God’s will—and follow through, no change is possible.