

## PERSONAL WORK LESSONS FROM NAAMAN

Text: 2 Kings 5:1-14

INTRO: I am indebted to Jeff May for the approach of this lesson. We are going to look at the case of Naaman the leper in 2 Kings 5, and make some application to principles involved in “personal work.” Note that several people were involved in the successful termination of Naaman’s problem.

### I. THE YOUNG ISRAELITE GIRL – AND NAAMAN’S WIFE, vs. 1-3.

- A. She was concerned about Naaman’s problem, and she voiced her concern to Naaman’s wife.
- B. Tho she was not personally qualified to solve Naaman’s problem, she knew someone who was & she suggested that Naaman should go to Elisha.
- C. If she had not pointed Naaman in the right direction, he would probably never have heard of Elisha the prophet, & he almost certainly would have died a leper.
- D. Likewise, in the area of personal work, even those who have not developed the skill or knowledge to feel adequate to teach the lost, can steer their friends toward someone who does have the skill & knowledge needed. They can invite friends to Bible class, regular worship services, gospel meetings. They can provide transportation, etc.

### II. ELISHA WAS THE POINT OF CONTACT WITH THE WILL OF GOD, 3, 8.

- A. Elisha was a prophet of God. Thru him God made known what Naaman must do to be cleansed, vs. 9-10.
- B. Note that Elisha was willing to help Naaman, but that help must be on God’s terms. It would not be as Naaman had imagined, vs. 11-12.

C. By continuing in our study & application of God's word, we can help others to learn God's will.

III. NAAMAN'S SERVANTS HELPED TO PERSUADE NAAMAN TO SUBMIT TO GOD'S WAY, 13-14.

A. They approached Naaman while he was still angry about the demands of God's instructions and reasoned with him calmly, because they knew it was his only hope.

B. If they had not dissuaded him from substituting another river for the one God's prophet had specified, they would have encouraged his failure.

C. Likewise, sometimes we need to reason calmly & coolly with those whose first reaction is to reject God's will.

IV. REGARDLESS OF WHAT OTHERS DID, GOD WAS THE HEALER, VS. 14-15.

A. The young Israelite girl could advise. Elisha could inform. Naaman's servants could reason & persuade. But only God could cure. And the God who could cure gave the conditions on which that healing would take place.

B. In the spiritual sense, Paul could "plant," Apollos could "water," but only God could give the increase, 1 Cor. 3:6. The same is true of us today.

V. BUT WE MUST ALSO NOTE THAT NAAMAN HAD IN HIS OWN CLEANSING, vs. 14.

A. Obviously, as already noted, he was powerless to heal himself. There was no known cure for leprosy. Dipping in the Jordan or any other river, or soaking in for hours, was not medicinally valuable.

B. God would be the healer. No one else could be. But two things were required of Naaman:

1. He had to believe the good news Elisha made known to him.
2. He had to obey the instructions he was given.

CONCLUSION: The little Israelite girl didn't save Naaman from his leprosy. But without her concern & encouragement, he would never have met the prophet Elisha. Elisha had no power to effect a cure—but had a direct channel to the revelation of God. Without the message sent to him by Elisha, Naaman would have returned to Syria & lived out his life as a leper. Naaman's servants certainly had no cure for leprosy—but they had the wisdom & good judgment to advise Naaman to give God's plan a chance to work. There was no power in the water of the Jordan River to cure leprosy or any other disease. The power was in the WORD of God, and in Naaman's FAITH and OBEDIENCE to God's will. It was not the hydrogen in the water, nor the oxygen in the water. It was NAAMAN in the water because God commanded it—that was effective in the saving of Naaman's physical well-being.

Today, sinners will be forgiven of all the sins that lead to spiritual death, if they will believe the gospel, repent of their sins, and be buried in the water of baptism for the remission of their sins. And tho we cannot save ourselves or others, we can be tools in the hands of God that may help others to learn and obey His will to the saving of their immortal souls.

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, November 24, 2002