

LIVING ON THE EDGE OF A BLESSING – Part one

II Kings 5:1-15

Introduction:

1. We, like Naaman, are standing at the edge of a miracle.
2. (v. 1) Naaman was the captain of the army for the king of Aram and was a respectful man of war – but he was a leper.
3. (vv. 2-4) A little servant girl from Israel told Naaman the prophet from Israel could cure him, so a word of healing came from a little humble girl to the captain of the army.
4. (vv. 5-6) The king of Aram sent a letter to the king of Israel that he was sending Naaman so he would heal him of his leprosy.
5. Along with the letter and Naaman went silver, gold and fine clothes as a reward.
6. (v. 7) When the king of Israel got the letter, he tore his clothes and said, “He wasn’t a God to kill and make well and accused the king of Aram of simply setting him up for failure to find a quarrel with him to start trouble.
7. (v. 8) But the man of God, Elisha, got word of the actions of the king, rebuked the king, and said, “Send him over to me, and he will know there is a prophet in the land of Israel.”
8. (v. 9) Naaman came to Elisha’s door with his horses, chariots, servants and gifts, but Elisha didn’t even go to the door.
9. (v. 10) Elisha sent a messenger to the door who said, “Go wash in the Jordan River seven times and you will be completely healed.”
10. Here is where we get to know the real Naaman.
11. He heard the word of God, but he didn’t like what he heard.
12. Naaman is standing and living on the edge of his greatest miracle. His actions and reactions to God’s word will determine whether he receives God’s miracle and rejoices or rejects God’s word and dies spending all eternity in regret.
13. When we see and hear the word of God, what we do next reveals what we believe about God.
14. There were 3 self-inflicted major hurdles Naaman, and we have to cross to receive and enjoy God’s promised miracle forever.

I. (v. 11) NAAMAN HAD TO CROSS THE HURDLE OF ANGER & PRIDE.

But Naaman was wrath, and went away, and said Behold, I thought, He will surely come out to me, and stand, and call on the name of the LORD his God, and strike his hand over the place, and recover the leper.

1. (v. 11a) His anger was infuriated.
 - A. His anger was typical anger from a military man, he steamed then and let his anger out.
 - B. Everyone knew what he thought, even though wrong.
 - C. Three positive things exhortations about anger are:
 - 1) Ephesians 4:26 – ***Be angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath.***
 - 2) Hebrews 12:15 – ***Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled.***
 - 3) James 5:16 – ***Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that you may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.***
 - D. Shortly after he humbled himself, he was healed.
 - E. The angriest people in the world are those who keep silent records of wrongs and never forgive.

[When he heard the word of God, not only was his anger infuriated, but. . .]

2. (v. 11b, c) His pride was insulted.
 - A. ***I thought he would surely come out of the house and see me.***
 - B. ***Doesn’t he know I am here with a personal letter from the king of my country, gold, silver, fine clothes for gifts, and I am the commander and chief over all the military in a foreign country.***
 - C. I can see Elisha now inside his house saying, ***None of these things move me, but his pride and unforgiveness must be moved.***
 - D. Proverbs 29:23 – ***A man’s pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.***

[When Naaman heard the word of God his anger was infuriated, his pride was insulted, and also . . .]

3. (v. 11d-g) His intelligence was intimidated.
 - A. (v. 11d) Naaman was expecting God's man to come over to him showing great respect.
 - B. (v. 11e) Naaman expected Elisha to call on his God where he could personally hear him.
 - C. (v. 11f) Naaman was expecting Elisha to wave his hand over him.
 - D. (v. 11g) Naaman was expecting Elisha to cure his leprosy on the spot, and he wouldn't have to put forth one bit of faith or effort.
 - E. Isn't it amazing that we sinners want to tell God how He can heal us?
 - F. We will either be healed His way, or we will never be healed.

Conclusion:

1. What kind of preconceived notions do you have as to what you deserve from the hand of God?
2. Are you insulted or angry with God as to His plan for your life? (If so, repent and get over!)