

The Mistakes of Naaman

Introduction

2 Kings 5:1-14

1. **Paul writes in Romans 15:4** "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning."
 - A. **Certainly this is true in the case of Naaman. From the text we learn that Naaman made some mistakes in his dealing with God; mistakes which are commonly made by men today.**
 - B. **By studying the mistakes of Naaman we can learn of the things in which he did that were wrong and warn people today against committing the same. Let's notice his case.**

Naaman Needed Help

1. **Naaman was a great and honorable man "but he was a leper". Only God could provide a cure (V1).**

- **Pictures**

2. **People today are lost in sin and only God can provide the forgive-ness of sin.**

Romans 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- **Social ostracism in Israel (because of its contagious nature)**
 - **Apparently not in Syria**
- **Eventually could not lead**
- **No known cure – disabling and repulsive skin disease**
- **Starts as scaly circles in the skin**
- **Advances – claims hair, fingernails, teeth, nose, eyes**
- **Ravaged body extremities**
 - **Eventually withered and dropped away**

Naaman Went to the Wrong Man for Help

1. **The king did not have the power of God to heal him (V6).**
2. **People today go to various ones instead of going to the Savior Jesus Christ.**

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

Naaman's Cleansing Was Conditional

1. **He had to follow the instructions of God's prophet to be cleansed. (V10)**
2. **People today must obey Christ to be forgiven of sins.**
 - A. **Orders given now by God's written inspired word.**

Hebrews 5:9 And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him,

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. **Like Naaman, what a person must do to be saved is very simple.**
Mark 16:16
4. **Many people have rejected God's truth on the bases of preconceived ideas.**

Naaman Became Angry

1. Naaman didn't like the instructions which he received (V11).
2. Many become angry today when they hear the truth of God's word because it does not fit what they would accept.

A. Unwilling to accept baptism

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.'

B. Unwilling to accept that there is only one church (Matt 16:18)

Ephesians 1:22-23 And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

- 1) It is our job to obey God's simple instructions according to His word.
- 2) We cannot choreograph our own deliverance.
- 3) When we humble ourselves before God then His will makes perfect sense.

Naaman Wanted His Way

1. **Naaman had already figured out how he would be cured and no other way would do (V11).**
2. **People today want to be saved but only according to their ways or plans.**

A. Faith only

James 2:24 You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only.

B. Attending the church of their choice

Matthew 16:18 I will build My church...

Ephesians 5:23 For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.

C. By doing nothing

John 9:4 I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work.

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.

Naaman Wanted to Substitute

- 1. He wanted to substitute the rivers of Damascus for the river Jordan (V12).**
- 2. Multitudes today think they can be saved by substituting human things for the things of God.**

A. Human creeds for the Bible

2 Timothy 3:16-17 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

B. Denominationalism for the Lord's church

Matthew 15:13 But He answered and said, "Every plant which My heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted.

- 1) "I will build My church" (Matthew 16:18)**
- 2) Did God plant these churches or did man?**
 - a) See Chart**

Naaman Was Blessed **Only** at Obedience

1. Naaman had to recognize and accept God's way and obey before he was cured of leprosy (V14).
2. No one can be saved today until he believes God and renders obedience to His will.

Hebrews 5:9

A. Hearing

Romans 10:17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

B. Believing

John 8:24 "Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins."

C. Repenting

Luke 13:3 "I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.

Acts 17:30 "Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent,

D. Confession

Romans 10:10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

E. Being Baptized

Mark 16:16 "He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

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 The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:

- 1) Notice in the New Testament – sins are washed away when one is baptized, not before.**

Conclusion

- 1. So what is the lesson we need to make sure that learn from Naaman?**
 - A. That we must go to God and follow HIS PLAN for salvation if we expect to have our sins forgiven.**

