

Intro

~ I remember my dad having the Chilton Manuals for his vehicles so when he had to work on them he would have guidance. They were highly practical manuals. The world may look at the bible as just a book. But we look at the bible as God's word and a highly practically inspired book

~ The bible is a perfect book, from a perfect God for an imperfect people

Outline

We see:

A Man – Naaman with Leprosy

A missionary – The Little Maiden

A Message – For Naaman's healing

A Man of God – Elisha

A Misunderstanding – Naaman's misunderstands God

Text

A Man – Naaman with Leprosy (v1)

V1 We see Naaman described as Captain of the army

- The Lord had enabled Naaman to be successful in battle. The Lord gave him success
- May we always remember that it's the Lord who gives us the ability to succeed
- We know that Naaman isn't a believer in the God of Israel yet the Lord prospered his efforts
- Paul said men worship and serve the creature more than the creator who is blessed in Romans 1:25
- He was a brave warrior
- Had Leprosy (Leprosy wasn't treated in other countries as it was in Israel. This would explain why he was the military general and also worshipped at the king's side at the house of Rimmon)

A missionary – The Little Maiden (v2,3)

- We see a missionary maid - this young girl served Naaman's wife
- There was always war skirmishes on the borders between northern Israel and Syria and maybe in one of these raids Naaman picked up a little girl
- The word little maiden means a girl who is young, children, youth
- She knows Naaman has a problem and knows that there is a prophet in Israel that has a God with answers so She tells her mistress
- This little girl knows about a man of God named Elisha and God's ability to work through him.
- Jesus referenced this exact narrative in Luke 2:47, "And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian."
- The young girl had enough knowledge of God to believe that God could heal Naaman through Elisha
- The maiden has more knowledge and fear of God than King Jehoram in v6-8
- There's something to be said for this little girl's parents. They taught her about the Lord and about God's prophet
- When I was a kid we would have sports players posters. We would look up to sports figures. Now we live in a time when there's a shortage of people to look up to. Yet, the parents of this little girl who had been taken as a slave already had enough knowledge of who God is and who is prophet is to tell others about him
- She knew about the man of God named Elisha

A Message – For Naaman's healing (v5-8)

- V5 Aram sends Naaman to the King of Israel and along with him he sends 750 lbs of silver, 150 lbs of gold and 10 changes of clothes
- The king of Syria must have thought Jehoram could direct Naaman for his healing
- V6,7 The king of Israel doesn't know what to do with this letter and thinks Aram is only trying to start a war with the king of Israel
- Remember the little maid we read about? She knew what to do. Go find the man of God in v3

- Yet Jehoram doesn't know what to do or he dislikes Elisha so much he hasn't considered Elisha in this situation. Maybe he doesn't want to give Elisha a chance to reveal and expose Jehoram as an apostate king
- V8 Elisha hears that the king of Israel has torn his clothes and asks him why. Elisha says to send him to him so that Naaman will know that there is a prophet in Israel.

A Man of God – Elisha (V8-10)

- V8 Elisha hears that the king of Israel has torn his clothes and asks him why. Elisha says to send him to him so that Naaman will know that there is a prophet in Israel.
- V9 Naaman comes to Elisha's house
- Notice the contrast here. A powerful army commander coming with his horses and chariot and other people go with him for safety as well. V15 refers to the company that accompanied Naaman. He comes with his important entourage to the lowly prophet's house
- V10 For whatever reason Elisha doesn't go out to meet Naaman but sends his messenger (maybe Gehazi) to Naaman to tell him to go wash times in the Jordan
- Nelson Compact Bible Dictionary says Elisha didn't go to the door himself so that Naaman would know that it was God who healed him and not a man. We see this in his conversion in V15-19.

A Misunderstanding – Naaman's misunderstands God (11-14)

- V11 Naaman was angry probably thought he deserved better treatment and hospitality
- V12 To Naaman this seems ridiculous, the rivers of Damascus are much better than the Jordan river. The Jordan was about 25 miles from Elisha's house. The waters of Damascus are still highly extolled by their inhabitants for their purity and coldness. Naaman thought more of these rivers and thought the healing was in the water instead of the healing of God
- V13 His servants had much wisdom and faith for their master Naaman. They tell him if the prophet had told you to do something hard you would've done it. Go do this simple thing
- V14 Obedience was rewarded. Naaman washed himself 7 times and was healed of his leprosy

Conclusion - Practical Points

1 The Young Maiden Missionary

~ The lesson is be a witness for Christ

~ The young maiden taken as a slave became a missionary. The Lord can turn our mishaps into missionary endeavor

~ The young girl saw Naaman and thought of Elisha. When Naaman showed up on the doorstep of the king of Israel he didn't know what to do. We see how little King Joram thought of Elisha

~ While it's a tragedy for this young girl to be taken from her home Matthew Henry pointed out the providence of God

~ Wherever life takes us we can be a witness for Christ

2 Naaman

~ The lesson is not having preconceived ideas of how God should work in our lives and not dictating the terms to God

~ Like Naaman we may have preconceived ideas as to how God should work and deliver. He thought Elisha should come out, call on the Lord and wave his hand over him

Unusual ways God spoke to, worked through and delivered his people

~ The Lord told Noah to build an Ark when it had never rained before ([Genesis 6](#))

~ God took a prisoner and made him the second in command in Egypt, a Hebrew at that (41)

~ God spoke to Moses through a burning bush (Exodus 3)

~ Led Israel to and through the Red Sea (Exodus 14)

God had the Israelites march around Jericho for six days and on the seventh they marched around the city 7 times and blew their trumpets (Joshua 6)

~ The sun stood still while Joshua and Israelites battled the Amorites ([Joshua 10](#))

~ God told Gideon his army had too many people so the Lord widdled it down to 300 ([Judges 7](#)). The Lord widdled down the army by allowing those to return who wanted to use only those who lapped the water to his mouth with his hand. ~ Those were dismissed who lapped as a dog and drank water from their knees. Those three hundred had a trumpet, an empty pitcher and a lamp with a pitcher. At the right time they blew their trumpets, shouted "the word of the lord and of Gideon" and then they broke the pitchers.

~ God uses a fearless shepherd boy to defeat a huge giant called Goliath (1 Sam 17)

~ When the widow's son died who Elijah had been living with he laid the child on his bed and laid on the child and prayed and the child came to life ([1 King 17](#))

~ The prophet Ezekiel was told to do many odd things to demonstrate a message to God's people. Such things as shaving his head and beard and weigh it ([Ezek 5:1-4](#)). He was to eat his bread with quaking and drink his water trembling and with carefulness ([Acts 12:17-20](#)). He was told not to cry when his wife died

~ There's the paradox that out of death comes life. Jesus died for us so we could live

Jesus told Peter to go catch a fish and pull a coin out of his mouth to pay the taxes for Jesus and Peter

~ Peter who had never before eaten anything unclean has a vision and sees a sheet coming down out of heaven with what Peter would call unclean food. God tells Peter to rise, kill and eat of those unclean animals. Then Peter gets an invitation to go do Cornelius' house

~ The greatest persecutor of the NT church in Acts gets addressed by God on the Damascus road and becomes the pillar of the NT Church. The church's greatest persecutor becomes its greatest ambassador

~ This all being said should encourage us to trust in God's plan even though we don't understand it

~ This keeps us from depending on our natural understanding

This keeps God at the focus of the work. This is what happened with Naaman. He afterward knew that this was the work of God and the Lord received credit for it

~ How do we not adopt misunderstandings of how God works? 1) Pray 2) Serve 3) Don't lock in on a remedy 4) Have our expectation be from God and not men 5) Be led by the Holy Spirit 6) Allow God to be God 7) Be patient 8) Read your bible 9) Prov 3:5,6 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding

3 King Jehoram

Lesson – Get saved and be spiritually minded

So distant from God and Elisha he didn't even have an inclination to get a message to Elisha

Didn't have a spiritual bone in his body

Is 55:1 Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price

Is 45:22 Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else

Is 52:10 The LORD hath made bare his holy arm in the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God

Col 3:1,2 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

Col 3:2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

Lesson – Be spiritually minded

Answer for King Joram – Salvation

In this highly practical narrative

1 We share our faith

2 We avoid preconceived ideas of God's methods – our difficulty may be the means of God working in our life

3 If we're unsaved we believe on the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation

Pride

☒ [Prov 6:17](#) A proud look is one of the things God despises

☒ [Prov 21:4](#) A high look, proud heart and plowing of the wicked is sin

☒ [James 4:6](#); [1 Peter 5:5](#) God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble

☒ ☒ Naaman's pride almost kept him from experiencing healing and conversion. How big an issue do you think pride is in keeping people from experiencing God's blessing in their lives? How does pride manifest itself in your life?

☒ Can you give any examples either in your own life or someone else's where you've seen pride derail someone

Communion

~ The cross is the ultimate expression of God. God's wrath poured on Christ for us while we were the guilty ones

~ 1 Cor 1:18 For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

The Lord will work in unconventional ways as we saw in the previous point so we don't lean on our own understanding
[Prov 3:5,6](#)

Elisha told Naaman to go wash in the Jordan River 7times. Naaman thought the rivers of Syria were better suited for what God wanted to do.

This keeps us from depending on our natural understanding

This keeps God at the focus of the work. This is what happened with Naaman. He afterward knew that this was the work of God and the Lord received credit for it

4 We have to be careful in coming to conclusions about people and their decisions.

Naaman seems to be a believer and yet he asks for understanding as he has to go back to Syria and go to the house of Rimmon with the King of Syria to worship. Naaman doesn't want to do that, yet he has to. Elisha doesn't seem to say no you can't do that. He doesn't say that's blasphemous. Elisha says to go in peace.

We have to be careful not to impose our convictions and standards on people.

It's odd because we see here Elisha affording Naaman some leverage but yet when Gehazi goes after Naaman to get a reward from him Elisha rebukes him and Gehazi gets the leprosy that was on Naaman (V26)

This is the same Elisha who called a curse on kids who were making fun of him calling him baldy and a bear came out of the woods and killed the kids

Perhaps its a situation in which Gehazi should've followed the lead of Elisha or asked Elisha first

Perhaps Naaman being a new believer in a foreign land was afforded this space

Consider other situations where people were afforded a liberty we wouldn't afford someone today

5 Naaman's Pride seen in his position, expectations and nationalism yet we see humility from Naaman as he listens to the advice of his fellow travelers

Pride can keep us from obeying God. If not for those who were with Naaman talking him into doing what the prophet said he would've missed a healing and salvation

Pride causes to do things we shouldn't do and not do things we should do

Pride caused David to number the Israelit army in [2 Samuel 24](#) and he brought judgement on the people because of it NABC song leading

Naaman showed up at Elisha's doorstep as a general but returned as a servant to Elisha

We see a similar transformation with Saul to Paul. Boldly killing christians and fighting God to afterward saying what would you have me to do Lord.

The Wonderful Ways of God

The People Involved

The board game Clue has many people involved and you have to figure out who committed the crime

There's many clues for us

1 The Maiden Missionary

Lesson - She wasn't bitter and angry

She was carried away in one of the battles against Israel

She became a servant to Naaman's wife

Jonah could've done well to learn from this missionary girl

Jesus served the disciples by washing their feet when they were a bunch of rascals at times

This missionary girl is similar to Joseph in that they both served well and we're examples of servanthood

Daniel and the 3 Hebrew boys also became missionaries who weren't bitter or angry

They served well

Lesson - She wasn't bitter and angry

Answer for the Maiden Missionary - Continue to serve with Joy

2 Naaman the Leper

Lesson – Be careful of preconceived ideas of how God works

He was a leprous commander

He had a preconceived idea as to how the prophet should heal him

God was going to challenge Naaman's concept of who the God of Israel is or how he operates

He's going to think so little of Elisha's advice he gets in a huff and leaves Elisha

Lesson – Be careful of preconceived ideas of how God works

Answer for Naaman – Walk by faith and not by sight (2 Cor 5:7)

1 Cor 1:25-31

Naaman would've done well to learn the miracles God performed for Israel in the OT from Exodus (God's strong hand delivering Israel from Egypt and their journey in the wilderness), Numbers (Israel's journey to the Promised land), Joshua (crossing the Jordan River and Israel's defeat of Jericho), Judges, 1 Samuel (David and Goliath), and 1 Kings (Elijah)

God's work must be on his terms and not ours

When we begin to define the manner and means in which God should work/operate the work ceases to be of God but has become a work of man

Wiersbe said regarding the work of God, "if you can explain then God didn't do it."

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3 King Jehoram

Lesson – Be spiritually minded

So distant from God and Elisha he didn't even have an inclination to get a message to Elisha

Didn't have a spiritual bone in his body

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Answer for King Joram – Salvation

4 Elisha

Lesson - Obedience

The prophet, the man of God, successor to Elijah (1 Kings 19), the prophet overseeing the school of prophets

It would take a lot to impress this prophet

He wasn't impressed by Naaman

He didn't even come out to meet Naaman

What Elisha spoke came to pass and Naaman didn't realize that what God spoke

Naaman should have listened to what the prophet said regardless of how it was communicated

Elisha listened to what God told him to do

Gal 6:9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

2 thess 3:13 But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing.

Heb 6:10 6:10 For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.

Heb 10:36 For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.

Lesson – Obedience

Answer for Elisha – Continue to do well

5 Gehazi

He went after Naaman to receive reward when Elisha refused Naaman's reward

Lesson - Wanted his reward now for service now

Answer to Gehazi – Hebrews chapter 11

Heb 11:10 Abraham looked for a city For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

Heb 11:24-27 By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter;

25 Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a

season; 26 Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward. 27 By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.

Matt 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Mathew Henry - The notice that was given him of Elisha's power, by a little maid that waited on his lady, 2Ki_5:2, 2Ki_5:3. This maid was, by birth, an Israelite, providentially carried captive into Syria, and there preferred into Naaman's family, where she published Elisha's fame to the honour of Israel and Israel's God. The unhappy dispersing of the people of God has sometimes proved the happy occasion of the diffusion of the knowledge of God, Act_8:4. This little maid, 1. As became a true-born Israelite, consulted the honour of her country, and could give an account, though but a girl, of the famous prophet they had among them. Children should betimes acquaint themselves with the wondrous works of God, that, wherever they go, they may have them to talk of. See Psa_8:2. 2. As became a good servant, she desired the health and welfare of her master, though she was a captive, a servant by force; much more should servants of choice seek their masters' good. The Jews in Babylon were to seek the peace of the land of their captivity. Jer_29:7. Elisha had not cleansed any leper in Israel (Luk_4:27), yet this little maid, from the other miracles he had wrought, inferred that he could cure her master, and from his common beneficence inferred that he would do it, though he was a Syrian. Servants may be blessings to the families where they are, by telling what they know of the glory of God and the honour of his prophets.

Conclusion

Pride

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- ☒ [Prov 21:4](#) A high look, proud heart and plowing of the wicked is sin
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V15 Naaman becomes a believer.

- He and his entourage go to Elisha and declared that there is no God like the God of Israel in the all the earth. He must have prayed to their God back in Syria for healing. Then he goes to Israel and Elisha asks him to do something unusual and he gets healed. He wanted to dirt to build an altar to God
- Naaman goes from disparaging the muddy Jordan River to wanting to take some of the soil home with him. He was changed.

V16 Elisha doesn't want his gift. He says later to Gehazi his servant that it's not a time to receive gifts

V17, 18 Naaman's plea for understanding.

- He asks Elisha for permission to take as much dirt as two mules can carry back to his home. He will no longer be offering burnt sacrifices to his former god. He will now only be offering sacrifices to Yahweh. He also asks for God's understanding for his situation. He will still be going with his master to the house of Rimmon and hopes the Lord will be understanding of this. Hadad-Rimmon was the god rain and thunder
- Naaman says though his body bows his heart won't bow to Rimmon. His heart will only bow to Yahweh

V19 Elisha doesn't seem to respond positively or negatively.

- As an aid to the king as his military commander Naaman would probably be accompanying him to the temple of Rimmon.
- Perhaps because Naaman is a foreigner and not an Israelite there is a little leverage toward him in this request. Maybe because the Lord knows Naaman's heart and his intentions he's afforded some latitude. This seems unusual to us but to this point we haven't seen Elisha steer us wrong, so we must trust his response to Naaman that it's ok.
- One commentator said the "go in peace" refers to Naaman's journey back while another said it's Elisha telling him it's ok his intentions in his situation