

Naaman, the Leper

⇒ **Introduction:**

⇒ **Leprosy:**

- **1. Leprosy was a terrible disease starting on the hands and on the eyes.**
 - Sin is the same way.
 - Sin usually is started in the eyes, and then once we see, we take.
 - These words were mentioned in Achan's sin: "**He saw, he coveted, he took.**"
- **2. Leprosy was very contagious.**
 - The leper had to put his hands over his mouth and cry, "Unclean!" when in public.
 - Sin is the same way.
 - Our sins cause others to sin.
- **3. Leprosy at first didn't seem so bad.**
 - Later it causes eyes to fall out of their sockets, parts of the body to rot and fall off at the joints, etc.
 - Sin doesn't seem bad at first.
- **4. Leprosy was humanly incurable.**
 - The same thing is true with sin.
 - There is nothing man can do to save himself.
- **5. In the end, leprosy separated people from their loved ones.**
 - (Leprous people were placed in leper camps, etc.)
 - The same is true with sin.
 - A person who dies in his sins must be separated for eternity from all that is holy and righteous.

⇒ Now let us look at Naaman and something about his background.

- The word "Naaman" means "pleasantness" or "delight."
 - He was the commander of the army of Ben-hadad, the king of Damascus.
 - He had won deliverance for the Syrians.
 - He was not separated from society because in Syria leprosy did not exclude one from human society, as was the case in Israel.
- Naaman had the disease of leprosy and was told about Elisha by a little slave girl who became a slave to Naaman's wife when brought away by the soldiers during one of the Syrian raids into Israelite territory.
 - This little girl expressed to her mistress the wish that Naaman were with Elisha in Samaria and that the prophet could heal him of his leprosy.

⇒ **I. NAAMAN'S INABILITY TO SAVE HIMSELF.**

⇒ **See II Kings 5:1**

- **1. He was a captain.**

- He was an able general, and yet the last four words in this verse say, "He was a leper."
 - In other words, being an able warrior will not eliminate the need of salvation.
 - **2. He was a great man.**
 - In other words, great men must be saved just like all others.
 - **3. He was an honorable man.**
 - He was a good man, respected in his neighborhood; yet good men and respected men must be saved like all others.
 - **4. He was a mighty man.**
 - He was brave, courageous, strong, noble -- and yet these people need to be saved too.
 - So often people think the old-time religion is well and good for the simple, the poor, and those that need it.
 - The truth of the matter is the famous athletes, the Hollywood stars, the bankers, the millionaires, the politicians and all must be saved the same way as the poor man -- by faith in Christ.
- ⇒ **II. NAAMAN'S ATTEMPTS TO SAVE HIMSELF.**
- Man hates to admit he cannot save himself, and even after admitting so, he hates to admit that he cannot help in some way.
 - Such was the case of Naaman. He tried to add his efforts to God's plan.
 - **1. Man wants to help by ceremony.**
 - **See II Kings 5:9**
 - Picture Naaman in all of the pomp and ceremony of coming with his chariot and horses at the door of Elisha.
 - It is a good day for man when he realizes that his candle-burning, ordinances, ritual, bead-counting, etc. cannot save him, just simple faith in Christ.
 - **2. Man wants to help make salvation.**
 - **See II Kings 5:11**
 - Notice the words, "**I thought.**"
 - Naaman was angry that the plan was apart from his own thinking.
 - Proud man wants to think up his own salvation!
 - This is as much idolatry as making a god of wood or metal.
 - **3. Man is full of Pride.**
 - **See II Kings 5:12**
 - Naaman was too proud to follow the simple plan of God.
 - He thought his rivers were better.
 - How like modern man this is!
 - We think our own ways are better.
 - Every time I go soul winning, I meet someone who tells me, "I've got my own religion."

- That would be fine, If you had your own heaven.
 - However, Heaven is God's home for His people.
 - To get into God's Heaven, you have to do it God's way!
 - **4. He got saved only when he yielded to God's plan.**
 - **See II Kings 5:13-14**
- ⇒ **III. THE RESULT OF HIS SALVATION**
- **1. He made a public profession of his faith.**
 - **See II Kings 5:15a, "And...Israel:..."**
 - **2. His attitude changed toward the preacher.**
 - **See II Kings 5:15b, "now...servant."**
 - A few minutes ago he was mad at the preacher; now he loves him and wants to give him something.
 - **3. He had a desire to give.**
 - **See II Kings 5:23**
 - It's amazing how liberal a person can become when he realizes how liberal Christ has been in offering him salvation.
 - **4. He immediately thought of staying close to God.**
 - **See II Kings 5:17a, "And...earth?..."**
 - Many people in Naaman's part of the world believed that the God of any nation adhered to national boundaries.
 - Thus, by taking earth from Israel with him, Naaman perhaps thought that he could be closer to God.
 - His thinking was way off base, but his intentions were great - he wanted to stay close to God.
 - Today, all too many Christians seem to be trying to get as far from God as possible!
 - **5. He immediately thought of worshiping God.**
 - **See II Kings 5:17b, "for...LORD."**
 - He set about to build an altar whereby he might worship God.
 - As you know, the altar in that day was the place of worship.
 - People who are saved always include this in their activities.
- ⇒ **CONCLUSION:**
- May we thank God for several things.
 - (1) Let us thank Him for salvation, realizing the condition we were in.
 - (2) Let us thank Him that there is nothing man can do to be saved.
 - (3) Let us thank Him there is a plan whereby God saved us.
 - (4) Let us thank Him for the desire He gives us to serve Him.