

HEROES: THE STORY OF OUR SALVATION IN JESUS CHRIST

—OBEDIENCE: GOD'S LOVE LANGUAGE—

SERMON OUTLINE

Introduction

- Naaman's story = a story of salvation that is found only in Jesus Christ.
- Naaman: Next to the king of Syria, the commander-in-chief of the Syrian king, very great man, highly distinguished, valiant soldier, someone who did not know Yahweh but enjoyed His support. However, he had leprosy!
- Naaman: Hebrew word *naem* meaning be delightful, pleasant, beautiful, gracious and well-formed.

The Commands of Elisha & Reactions of Naaman

2 Kings 5:10 – *Elisha sent a messenger to say to him, "Go, wash yourself seven times in the Jordan, and your flesh will be restored and you will be cleansed."*

2 Kings 5:11-12 – *But Naaman went away angry and said, "I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, wave his hand over the spot and cure me of my leprosy. ¹²Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Couldn't I wash in them and be cleansed?" So he turned and went off in a rage.*

Two potential hindrances to Naaman's healing & salvation

1. His Pride

2 Kings 5:9 – *So Naaman went with his horses and chariots and waited at the door of Elisha's house.*

Proverbs 11:2 – *When pride comes, then comes disgrace,*

Proverbs 16:18 – *Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.*

Proverbs 29:23 – *Pride brings a person low,*

1 Peter 5:5 – *God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.*

2. His Opinion

He said, "I thought that he..." "Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Couldn't I wash in them and be cleansed?"

Obedience: God's love language

John 14:15 – *If you love me, obey my commandments.*

John 2:4-5 – *"Woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you"*

2 Kings 5:13-14 – *But his officers tried to reason with him and said, "Sir, if the prophet had told you to do something very difficult, wouldn't you have done it? So you should certainly obey him when he says simply, 'Go and wash and be cured!'" ¹⁴ So Naaman went down to the Jordan River and dipped himself seven times, as the man of God had instructed him. And his skin became as healthy as the skin of a young child, and he was healed!*

For your Sabbath ruminating

- What does the striking contrast between the meaning of the name of Naaman (delightful, pleasant, beautiful, gracious and well-formed) and the leprosy (malady) suggest to you about the beautiful creation of human beings (Genesis 1:27-31) and the effect of sin (Genesis 3)?
- Over the years, who are the *type* of the "young girl from Israel" (2 Kings 5:2) and the other "servants" (2 Kings 5:13) that God has placed in your life? Think for a minute, consider the impact they have made on your physical and spiritual life, and thank God for bringing them into your life.
- Mary told the servants, "Do whatever he tells you" (John 2:5). What does Mary's statement mean to you? What has God been telling you? Write your thoughts, if possible.
- Get together with someone (your spouse, a believing friend, or a small group) and freely discuss difficulties or challenges you have had in discerning the voice of God and doing his will. Discuss how these difficulties may be alleviated. Close with prayer for each other.