Saved Like Naaman

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday October 29th, 2017

Text: II Kings 5:10-14

### Intro

1. II Kings 5:1-5:
	1. Naaman was a Syrian (Arameans), an enemy and oppressor of Israel
	2. Captain of the host (5:1).
	3. Had taken captives, and a little Israelite girl served in his house (5:2).
	4. He was a great and honorable man, a valiant warrior, and because of him, God gave him victory over Israel! (5:1)
		1. Jehoram (Joram), son of Ahab was king over Israel – *II Kings 3:1*
		2. Ben-hadad was king over Syria – *II Kings 6:24*
	5. But with all his valor and honor, he was a leper, which meant he was doomed to die.
		1. His Israelite captive said a few words that made a commotion in 2 kingdoms!
		2. God honored her faith by doing for Naaman, the idolater, what he had not done for any in Israel (Lk. 4:27).
2. The case of Naaman’s salvation is the same case as people today!

#### Case of Naaman – Seeking a Cure

* 1. Naaman had a serious need that he could not provide for on his own. He was a leper.
		1. Leprosy was a terrible disease that had dreadful effects.
		2. A chronic, slowly progressing, mildly infectious disease, marked by destruction of tissue. Known today as *Hansen’s Disease* *(Webster’s College Dictionary).*
		3. Their tissue rots (wastes away) from the inside till death! ***“Walking dead!”***
		4. Surely, if Naaman could have relieved himself of this problem he would have done it!
	2. He heard some good news!
		1. A messenger was sent from one of God's prophets, telling Naaman: “Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh will be restored to you and you will be clean” (II Kings 5:10).
		2. God was the only one who could provide for his need!
	3. Sadly, he was at first unwilling to put away his pride and just submit to the clear instructions that had been given him!
		1. Looking to his own wisdom, he questioned why it had to be done that way (II Kings 5:11).
		2. He wondered why “water” would have to be part of the plan.
		3. If he did have to wash in water, why would it have to be the waters of the Jordan River? (Better waters back in Damascus)
	4. Eventually, Naaman was persuaded to be humble enough to submit to the very simple instructions that had been given through the messenger of God (II Kings 5:13).
		1. “So he went down and dipped himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child and he was clean” (II Kings 5:14).
	5. Naaman was saved by grace through faith.
		1. Grace is “unmerited favor.”
		2. No one can conclude that this leper “merited” his cleansing by performing a good work about which he could boast (II Kings 5:13).
		3. His cleansing was not of himself (didn't come from his own power).
		4. It was the gift of God (no one can doubt that!).
	6. Naaman did what God said to do and was saved from his incurable state!

#### Case of Sinners Today – Seeking a Cure

* 1. We have a serious need that we cannot provide for on our own. We are sinners.
		1. Sin is likened in Scripture to a terrible disease and it has dreadful effects (Ps. 38:3-8, 18-19; Mt. 9:11-13) – God has only cure!
			1. *Rom. 3:23:* All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.
			2. *Rom. 6:23:* Wages of sin is death; God gives the free gift of eternal life in Christ.
			3. *Eph. 2:1-2:* People lost in sin are “dead in their transgressions!” ***“Walking dead!”***
		2. Surely, if we could relieve ourselves of this problem we would do it!
	2. We've heard the gospel (“good news”)!
		1. A messenger (Ananias) was sent from God telling Saul of Tarsus: “Go and wash!”
		2. Acts 22:16: “Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.” *(I Cor. 6:9-11: Sins can be washed away; NKJ: Rev. 1:5: Washed our sins away in His own blood!)*
		3. God is the only one (through the blood of Jesus – Eph. 1:7) who can provide for our need! *(Eph. 5:25-27: The church “washed” by the word!)*
	3. Sadly, some are unwilling to put away their pride and just submit to the clear instructions.
		1. Looking to their own wisdom, they question why it has to be done that way.
		2. They wonder why “water” would have to be part of the plan (They instead teach to say a prayer!)
	4. Others are humble enough to submit to the very simple instructions that have been given through the messengers of God.
		1. What was Saul's response when he was instructed to “get up and be baptized, and wash …”? “He got up and was baptized” (Acts 9:18).
	5. Sinners are saved by grace through faith (Eph. 2:8-9).
		1. No one of sound mind would conclude that this sinner (Saul) merited his cleansing by performing a good work about which he could boast (Gal. 6:13-14; Eph. 2:8-9: His cleansing was not himself or his own power).
		2. It was the gift of God (no one can doubt that)!
	6. When sinners “Go and Wash” as God has said to do they are saved from their incurable state!

## Conclusion

1. The case of Naaman also refutes mistakes commonly made in the religious world today:
	1. No substitutes will be accepted (Sinner’s Prayer, Faith Only, etc.) – *II Jn. 9-11 (Waters of Damascus)*
	2. Man’s way will not prevail, and is sinful – *Rom. 5:6-10 (Wanted a show)*
	3. Man must obey God and remain obedient to His word – *Heb. 5:9 (Turned away enraged)*
2. As Naaman was doomed if he refused to obey, so are those who do not obey the gospel!
	1. *II Thess. 1:7-9:* No excuses for not knowing God and not obeying Him!
	2. The result: Eternal separation from God!
3. People today are still saved like Naaman!
4. Sinners are told the same as Naaman was once told, “Go and wash” (Acts 22:16; I Cor. 6:9-11)
5. Sinners must humbly obey and be baptized to receive salvation, the forgiveness of sins *(Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38; Eph. 1:7)!*
6. If you are not a Christian, you need to be. Repent and be baptized into His name! Your soul, though stained crimson with sin, will be washed white as snow in the blood of the Lamb! *(Rev. 7:14; Eph. 1:7; I Cor. 6:9-11)*
7. If a Christian in error, don’t wait till it’s eternally too late. Repent and be renewed!
8. Whatever your requests, let them be made known ***NOW*** while we stand & sing!