

Elisha

SLIDE 1 13. Elisha

Last week we looked at Elijah the prophet, this week we are looking at Elisha the prophet. Elisha was Elijah's successor. He spent seven or eight years as Elijah's apprentice. Elijah asked Elisha is there anything you want? He said a double portion of your power, and so God did it.

Elijah was taken to heaven in a chariot with horses made of fire in a windstorm. Elisha brought a widow's son back to life (2 Kings 4:18–37), and cured Naaman's leprosy (2 Kings 5). His power and authority through God was so great that when a dead man was thrown into Elisha's grave, the man sprang back to life (2 Kings 13:2–21).

SLIDE 2 Today I want to focus on Elisha healing Naaman. Naaman was a commander of the army of Syria. He was a very successful commander and was held in favor because of the victories that God brought him. Yet **Naaman** was a leper. **Leprosy then was** an incurable skin disease. A leper wasn't allowed to come within six feet of any other human, including his own family. The disease was considered so revolting that the leper wasn't permitted to come within 150 feet of anyone when the wind was blowing. Lepers lived in a community with other lepers until they either got better or died. This was the only way the people knew to contain the spread of the contagious forms of leprosy. Leprosy then left you isolated and without hope.

Naaman's wife had a servant girl from Israel who was taken in a raid as a slave. While she was a slave, she was free because she trusted in God. She said there was a prophet in Israel that would be able to heal him.

SLIDE 3 **2Kings 5:4-5** So Naaman told the king what the young girl from Israel had said. "Go and visit the prophet," the king of Aram told him. "I will send a letter of introduction for you to take to the king of Israel." So Naaman started out, carrying as gifts 750 pounds of silver, 150 pounds of gold, and ten sets of clothing.

- 3.6 million in gold, 240k in silver almost 4 million to be healed. He was desperate.

2Kings 5:9-10 So Naaman went with his horses and chariots and waited at the door of Elisha's house. But Elisha sent a messenger out to him with this message: "Go and wash yourself seven times in the Jordan River. Then your skin will be restored, and you will be healed of your leprosy."

- Naaman expected to be met with great respect, But Elisha did not even go to the door to meet him - he sent a messenger.

SLIDE 4 2Kings 5:11-14 But Naaman became angry and stalked away. "I thought he would certainly come out to meet me!" he said. "I expected him to wave his hand over the leprosy and call on the name of the LORD his God and heal me! Aren't the rivers of Damascus, the Abana and the Pharpar, better than any of the rivers of Israel? Why shouldn't I wash in them and be healed?" So Naaman turned and went away in a rage. 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!'" 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's, and he was healed!

- God does not always do things the way we think.
- **Isa 55:8-9** "My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts," says the LORD. "And My ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so My ways are higher than your ways and My thoughts higher than your thoughts."
- God's ways are better than our ways, learn to seek His way.
- Elijah told Naaman to wash in a dirty river the Jordan 7 times
- Naaman had to humble himself and obey to be healed.

SLIDE 5 2Kings 5:15-16 Then Naaman and his entire party went back to find the man of God. They stood before him, and Naaman said, "Now I know that there is no God in all the world except in Israel. So please accept a gift from your servant." But Elisha replied, "As surely as the LORD lives, whom I serve, I will not accept any gifts." And though Naaman urged him to take the gift, Elisha refused.

- Naaman had to obey the method to be healed. He also then believed in God renouncing the idols of those days.

SLIDE 6 APPLY

- Naaman almost missed the blessing God had for Him by disobedience. We too can miss out on God's best by our disobedience.
- We need to learn to do things God's way to find life and healing from our past, like forgiving the people who hurt you.
- Naaman had an incurable disease and needed a healing touch from the Lord- as many of you need a healing touch in your soul, which is your mind, emotions & will so your choices can be right so you experience God's best and His peace.

This comes by putting your faith in Jesus, trusting Him, asking of Him and obeying God's Word, then you will experience God's best.

- **NKJV Eph 3:20 Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,**
- God wants to blow your mind with His goodness, but you gotta do it His way, to get the life you want- a rich and satisfying life that God promises for you

SLIDE 7 Transition to the gospel

Jesus used the story of Naaman and Elisha as an illustration of Israel's problem of unbelief. In [Luke 4:27](#), Jesus tells the crowd in the synagogue of Nazareth, "There were many in Israel with leprosy in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them was cleansed—only Naaman the Syrian." The lepers of Israel overlooked the healing that could have been theirs through Elisha, so God healed a Syrian instead. In the same way, the Israelites of Jesus' day were missing the power right in front of their eyes. But God is no respecter of persons ([Acts 10:34–35](#)), and the Gentiles eventually received the gospel that Israel rejected.

Naaman's healing from leprosy is a wonderful picture of our salvation from sin—freely bestowed by the grace of God in response to faith ([Ephesians 2:8–9](#)).

Leprosy in the Bible is a type for sin. We all have sinned and are in need of a savior. We must become desperate like Naaman to be changed and we too can be saved once we realize we have sinned, then we have to do two simple things to be saved.

Repent- change your mind about your sins and agree with God that you are wrong.

Believe- that Jesus took the penalty for your sin and died in your place and rose from the dead.

Questions

1. **What did Elisha ask Elijah for?** A double portion
2. **How did Elijah go to heaven?** Fiery horses and chariot
3. **What was Naaman's occupation?** A Commander in the Syrian army
4. **What was Naaman's problem?** He had leprosy
5. **What did Naaman bring to pay for his healing?** Almost 4 million in gold and silver and 10 changes of clothes.
6. **What did Elisha tell Naaman to do to be healed?** Dunk 7 times in the Jordan river
7. **What was the result of Naaman being healed?** He believed in God