



The Library

Old Testament Stories For Today

Punchline

Respond to grace with grace



Set up - Who is Elisha?

- ★ A prophet of God
- ★ Will succeed Elijah as a prophet
- ★ Great stories in 2 Kings 4



Now Naaman was commander of the army of the king of Aram. He was a great man in the sight of his master and highly regarded, because through him the Lord had given victory to Aram. He was a valiant soldier, but he had leprosy



2 Kings 5: 1 NIV

Now bands of raiders from Aram had gone out and had taken captive a young girl from Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. She said to her mistress, "If only my master would see the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy."



2 Kings 5: 2-3 NIV

Naaman went to his master and told him what the girl from Israel had said. “By all means, go,” the king of Aram replied. “I will send a letter to the king of Israel.” So Naaman left, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold and ten sets of clothing.

2 Kings 5: 4-5 NIV



The letter that he took to the king of Israel read: “With this letter I am sending my servant Naaman to you so that you may cure him of his leprosy.”



2 Kings 5: 6 NIV

Naaman's Leprosy

- ★ Naaman - highly important but has leprosy
- ★ Servant girl knows Elisha could heal him



Naaman's Leprosy

- ★ Naaman asks to see Elisha
- ★ Takes along a gift
- ★ Takes a letter from his master that says "I'm sending him to be healed"



As soon as the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his robes and said, “Am I God? Can I kill and bring back to life? Why does this fellow send someone to me to be cured of his leprosy? See how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me!”



2 Kings 5: 7 NIV

When Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his robes, he sent him this message: “Why have you torn your robes? Have the man come to me and he will know that there is a prophet in Israel.”



2 Kings 5: 7 NIV

So Naaman went with his horses and chariots and stopped at the door of Elisha's house. 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: 9-10 NIV

Elisha's Response to Naaman

- ★ King's response is fear
- ★ Elisha says "I got this"
 - "Go to the Jordan and wash seven times"



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.



2 Kings 5: 11 NIV

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?" So he turned and went off in a rage.



2 Kings 5: 12 NIV

Naaman's servants went to him and said, "My father, if the prophet had told you to do some great thing, would you not have done it? How much more, then, when he tells you, 'Wash and be cleansed'!"



2 Kings 5: 13 NIV

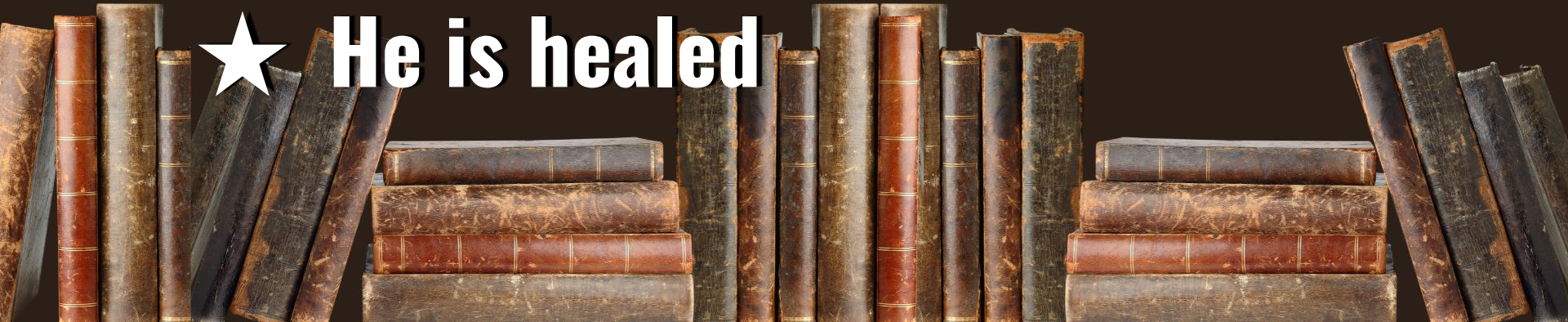
So he went down and dipped himself in the Jordan seven times, as the man of God had told him, and his flesh was restored and became clean like that of a young boy.



2 Kings 5: 14 NIV

Naaman is Healed

- ★ Naaman is annoyed
 - He warranted a bigger deal
- ★ His servants convince him to do as Elisha said
- ★ He is healed



Then Naaman and all his attendants went back to the man of God. He stood before him and said, “Now I know that there is no God in all the world except in Israel. So please accept a gift from your servant.”



2 Kings 5: 15 NIV

**The prophet answered, “As surely as the Lord lives, whom I serve, I will not accept a thing.”
And even though Naaman urged him, he refused.**



2 Kings 5: 16 NIV

“If you will not,” said Naaman, “please let me, your servant, be given as much earth as a pair of mules can carry, for your servant will never again make burnt offerings and sacrifices to any other god but the Lord.



2 Kings 5: 17 NIV

But may the Lord forgive your servant for this one thing: When my master enters the temple of Rimmon to bow down and he is leaning on my arm and I have to bow there also—when I bow down in the temple of Rimmon, may the Lord forgive your servant for this.”

“Go in peace,” Elisha said.

2 Kings 5: 18-19a NIV



Naaman's Gratitude

- ★ Naaman's attitude does a 180
- ★ He tries to offer a gift of thanks
- ★ Asks to take "Israelite earth" back
- ★ Elisha says "Go in peace"



After Naaman had traveled some distance, Gehazi, the servant of Elisha the man of God, said to himself, “My master was too easy on Naaman, this Aramean, by not accepting from him what he brought. As surely as the Lord lives, I will run after him and get something from him.”

2 Kings 5: 19b-20 NIV



So Gehazi hurried after Naaman. When Naaman saw him running toward him, he got down from the chariot to meet him. “Is everything all right?” he asked.



2 Kings 5: 21 NIV

“Everything is alright,” Gehazi answered. “My master sent me to say, ‘Two young men from the company of the prophets have just come to me from the hill country of Ephraim. Please give them a talent of silver and two sets of clothing.’”



2 Kings 5: 22 NIV


By all means, take two talents,” said Naaman. He urged Gehazi to accept them, and then tied up the two talents of silver in two bags, with two sets of clothing. He gave them to two of his servants, and they carried them ahead of Gehazi.



2 Kings 5: 23 NIV

When Gehazi came to the hill, he took the things from the servants and put them away in the house. He sent the men away and they left. When he went in and stood before his master, Elisha asked him, “Where have you been, Gehazi?” “Your servant didn’t go anywhere,” Gehazi answered.

2 Kings 5: 24-25 NIV



But Elisha said to him, “Was not my spirit with you when the man got down from his chariot to meet you? Is this the time to take money or to accept clothes—or olive groves and vineyards, or flocks and herds, or male and female slaves?”



2 Kings 5: 26 NIV

Naaman's leprosy will cling to you and to your descendants forever." Then Gehazi went from Elisha's presence and his skin was leprous—it had become as white as snow.



2 Kings 5: 27 NIV

Gehazi's Response

- ★ **Thinks Elisha was too easy on Naaman**
- ★ **Naaman owed something**



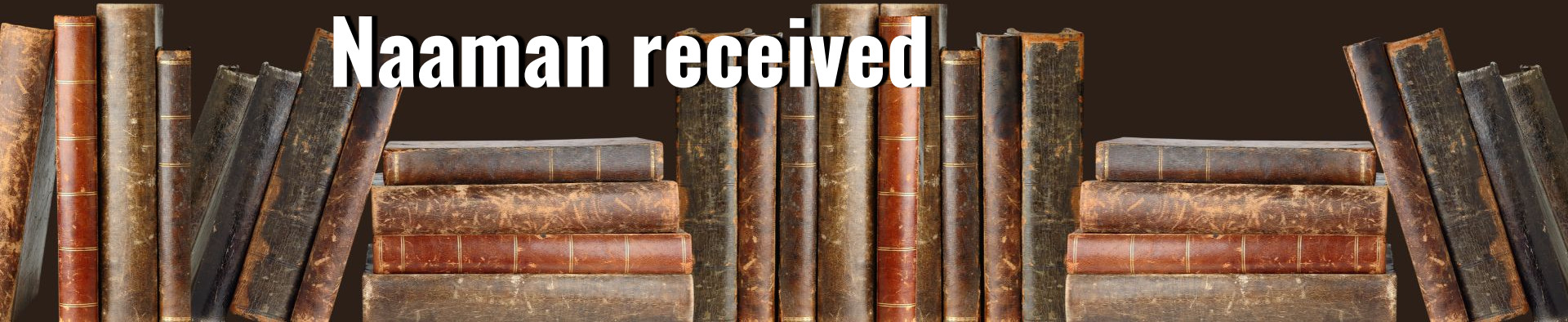
Gehazi's Response

- ★ Tells Naaman “Elisha says we need clothes and money for some prophets”
- ★ He takes it and hides it for himself



Gehazi's Response

- ★ Elisha knows what happened
- ★ Gehazi was greedy, opportunistic, and jealous
- ★ He couldn't handle the grace Naaman received





HUMILITY

Humility

- ★ Accept that we need God's grace
- ★ It's ok to need help
- ★ It's ok to not earn everything
- ★ Humility is accepting God's grace





Gratitude
changes
everything



Gratitude

- ★ Give God us
- ★ Give God your worldview
- ★ See things in a heavenly way



Gratitude

★ Days may not look different from the outside but the way you look at the outside will look different



Gratitude

- ★ When we give God our view we also view others with grace
- ★ What better way to show gratitude for grace than to gratefully give grace

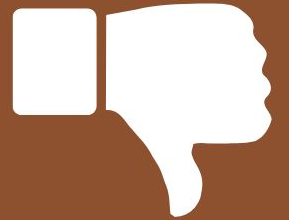




5 am



5 pm



Opportunistic

- ★ **Be careful to not take advantage of someone who just received an act of grace**
 - **Now they can serve, give, help**



Opportunistic

- ★ For someone to show gratitude it needs to come from them
- ★ We can present ways to give and serve but doing it should come from God's leading presence



jealousy



Jealousy

★ This is hard

★ We miss the grace in our lives
when we stack it up against the
grace in someone else's life



Jealousy

- ★ We get grace where we need it and they get it where they need it
- ★ Take joy in the grace you and others receive from God



Gift of Grace

★ **Grace is given because Jesus gave His life**

★ **Accept it in humility**

★ **Be grateful**

★ **See grace in and around you**

