

2 Kings 5 Naaman's Leprosy - Some Margin Notes From Pastor Ed Rice

- 5:3 This prophet had not done this before. Never underestimate your 3rd person witness.
- 5:5 Typically kings think kings do God's business, and that it is for hire.
- 5:7 Typically kings know nothing about God, his business, nor his prophets.
- 5:8 A man of God knows the kings business.”... that he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel.”
There still is?... our kings still do not know.
- 5:10 God also sent messengers to to tell man what he needs to do to receive cleansing. Seven is the Bible number of completeness.
- 5:11 God's simple plan for our cleansing is always offensive to those who think themselves 'somebody.'
'Naamans' always preconceive how God is supposed to do things.
- 5:12 The gully cleaning backwash through God's promised land is more than any of our grandest rivers.
- 5:13 The servant knew. cf John 2:9
- 5:14 Salvation's Portrait. cf Matt 18
- 5:15 Salvation's Result:
- * Return with all your company to the man of God
 - * “Now I Know!” vr 15
 - * Great Gratitude
 - * Silver and Gold and Raiment are as dirt. “Burden of earth” vr 17
 - * No other God before thee. vr 18
 - * Consciousness of sin, and need of pardon vr 18
 - * A new Going In Peace, everywhere we go. vr 19
- 5:20 Salvation's Villains:vr 20-27
- * Gold is not as dirt
 - * Long time servant of God's man.
 - * Pursues after a new convert. vr 21
 - * Lies about God's man.
 - > about what he did,
 - > about what he said,
 - > about what he wants,
 - > about the tithe.
 - * Is trusted by the new convert.
 - * Sneaks and hides things from the man of God. vr 24
 - * Lies to the man of God.
 - * Is revealed by God.
 - * Sees compassion from the man of God.
 - * Is rebuked by the man of God.
 - * Is punished by the hand of God.
- 5:27 What ever becomes of the villains?
- * Chapter 8:1-6, Seven years later is still talking about the man of God.
 - * Is still being asked about the man of God.
 - * Still bumping into those changed by the man of God.
 - * Is risen to power in man's kingdoms and is rich.
 - * He is providentially (but not directly) used to bring God's blessing to saints.

The account of Naaman being healed of his leprosy is a superb portrait of what Hebrews 2:3 calls “so great salvation,” but 2Kings 5 also reveals salvation's villain. In 5:3-12 one first has to admire the persistent 3rd person testimony of a child, the blundering kings who know nothing about how God works, and the man-of-God who only sends a messenger, and confounds all of Naaman's preconceived notions. After Naaman's cleansing don't miss the seven results of authentic salvation recorded in 5:15-19: 1) He returned with his whole company to the man-of-God, 2) A “Now I know” salvation, 3) Overwhelming gratitude, 4) Silver and gold are nothing more than “burden of earth,” 5) A “No other God” mentality, 6) A consciousness of sin, and a need of pardon, and 7) A “Go in peace” joy of salvation. But notice, oh man of God, the seven traits of the villain of this account. In 5:20-25 for Gehazi 1) Gold is not as dirt, 2) long time service is obscured by greed, 3) he pursues after new-converts, 4) he lies about the man-of-God, what he did, what he said, and what he wants, 5) Gehazi is trusted by the new convert, 6) he sneaks around and hides things, and 7) he lies to the man-of-God. Wow, what a portrait. It reminds us that the faithful man of God will indeed be challenged in this old world. Don't miss Elisha's compassion on the villain as he confronts him, rebukes him, and leaves all punishment to the hand of God. Seven years later chapter 8 reveals that the villain struck pay-dirt for a new job, is still talking about the man-of-God, still bumping into people changed by the man-of-God, and is, coincidentally, providentially used to bring God's blessing on them. God is good.