

## Accepting The Power Of God

Text : **II Kings 5: 1-19**

**S#1.**

### INTRODUCTION :

**A. By volume, the New Testament is 10% quotations of the Old Testament.**

**S#2.**

1. Jesus quotes from 24 books of the O.T.
2. In total 34 O.T. books are quoted in the New.
3. There are somewhere between 263 and 278 direct quotations.
  - a. 94 from the Pentateuch
  - b. 97 from the Prophets
  - c. 85 from other writings ( poetry & history )
4. In addition to actual quotations, there are between 613 and 1640 allusions to the O.T.

**B. By pages, the O.T. is more than three times as large as the N.T.**

**S#3.**

1. By giving us three times as much of it, God is emphasizing its value.
2. By quoting from it so freely, both Jesus and the Apostles emphasized its importance.
3. Through the Apostle Paul, the holy spirit plainly stated it's values :

**S#4.**

**Rom. 15: 4 – For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.**

**C. What are we to learn from the Old Testament ?**

**S#5.**

1. It contains NO plan of salvation.
2. It is the New Testament that presents Jesus and His work to us.
3. The Old Testament presents God to us.

**S#6.**

**\* In large part, the N.T. writers seem to assume knowledge of the O.T.**

**D. Life in Christ is life in God.**

1. Jesus IS God so learning about God is learning about our Lord Jesus.

**S#7.**

- a. **John 1: 1-2**
- b. **John 10: 30 – I and the Father are one.**

2. Therefore, one must learn about God in order to maintain a relationship with Him.

**\* a. God selected the stories to be included in the O.T. as well the content of the N.T.**

- b. Every event recorded has something that God wants us to know about Him.

**S#8.**

**With this lesson we'll see what God reveals in the story of Naaman the leper.**

**I. Through Naaman God reveals His awesome power.****S#9.****A. Naaman is a very powerful man in a foreign country, an enemy of Israel. S#10.**

1. **II King 5: 1** – Now Naaman, captain of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man with his master, and highly respected, because by him the Lord had given victory to Aram. The man was also a valiant warrior,...
2. He is the captain over all the army of Syria. (*Equal to secretary of defense*)
3. He was also a valiant warrior and highly respected by the king.

**B. God used Naaman to give victory and security to Syria (Aram .. to north) S#11.**

1. God had no covenant with Syria yet God was active in the affairs of that nation.
2. Syria was an enemy of Israel and attacked them sometime after this event.
3. God is in control of the universe and all the nations. (**even our nation**) **S#12.**
  - a. **Dan. 2: 21** – It is He who changes the times and the epochs; He removes kings and establishes kings; He gives wisdom to wise men And knowledge to men of understanding. (*No man rules w/o God's approval.*)
  - b. **Acts 17: 26** – He (God) made from one man every nation of mankind to live on **S#13.**  
all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times  
and the boundaries of their habitation,

**C. The Syrians did not know God or acknowledge Him in any way. S#14.**

1. God's power does not depend upon man in any way.
2. Even ungodly atheists and those who reject God are subject to His power.
  - a. Remember how Nebuchadnezzar ate grass. **Dan 4: 28-37**
  - b. God sends the rain on the righteous and unrighteous. **Matt. 5: 45**
- \* 3. Man cannot comprehend the providential oversight of God.
  - a. We cannot even comprehend how our brain controls all the functions of our body.
  - b. All mankind is dependant up God for the next breath we breathe.

**II. Our God is a God of great compassion.****S#15.****A. Every person on the planet has problems.**

1. Naaman had leprosy  
**II Kings 5: 1** – The man was also a valiant warrior, but he was a leper.
2. He could defeat mighty armies, but not the infection in his body.

**B. God placed a little girl in Naaman's house to point him to his only hope.**

1. The “**little girl**” is not even named in the text, but influences history.
2. She was kidnapped by violence and taken to a foreign land as a slave.

**II King 5: 2** – Now the Arameans had gone out in bands and had taken captive **S#16.**  
a little girl from the land of Israel; and she waited on Naaman's wife.

- a. She had every cause to be resentful, but was pleasing to her mistress.
- \* b. She had much in common with Joseph when he was sold as a slave.

**Note :** Both were providentially prepositioned to accomplish something.

1– *When taken, neither knew why they were being taken.*

2– *Both lived in such a way as to be able to accomplish God's plan.*

3– **John 9** ... The blind man was prepositioned 40 yrs. in advance.

4– *Is your life preparing you to be accomplishing God's plan for you?*

5– *Are you using every opportunity to speak out for God. ( never know )*

- c. As followers of Jesus, when we are in such circumstances, He commands us do have the same reactions that this little girl had.

**Luke 6: 27-28** But I say to you who hear, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, <sup>28</sup> bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. **S#17.**

\* *When that nasty boss deserves it the least, serve him the best.*

3. The little girl had compassion on her master's husband.

**II King 5: 3** – She said to her mistress, “I wish that my master were with the **S#18.**  
prophet who is in Samaria! Then he would cure him of his leprosy.”

- a. She had compassion because he was sick ... isolated from personal contact.
- b. She also had compassion because he did not know God.

**C. Naaman was desperate so he listened to her.**

1. He knew that what he had was progressive and incurable by any known means.
2. That he would listen to the story of a little slave girl was evidence of two things.

- a. The regard in which he held the slave girl. (*Her conduct & character.*)
- b. It also spoke to the level of Naaman's desperation.

- \* 3. Sometimes one has to get desperate enough to take action.

- a. Naaman wouldn't have gone to a foreign country asking help w/o desperation.
- b. He would not have sought help from a slave's God if he had any other hope.

S#19.

**Note : When God places a lost friend in desperate circumstances, how do we pray ?**

- 1- Do we pray that their physical circumstance be alleviated ?
- 2- We should pray that their desperate circumstance drive them to God.
- 3- In all circumstances we should point them toward God.

S#20.

**D. God welcomes all who will come to Him with a humble obedient heart of faith.**

1. Here, God reached out to the enemy of His people and helped him.
2. The king of Israel ( Jehoram ) was afraid because he had no relationship with God.

**II Kings 5: 7** – When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, “Am I God, to kill and to make alive, that this man is sending word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? But consider now, and see how he is seeking a quarrel against me.”

- a. Without God, the weight of the world was on his shoulders.
  - b. Life on earth is much more difficult for those who have no faith.
  3. The prophet of God was not panicked in the least.
- II Kings 5: 8** – It happened when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, that he sent word to the king, saying, “Why have you torn your clothes? Now let him come to me, and he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel.”

- a. God’s man volunteered ... not wait for a summons.
- b. **TODAY ..** God’s people shouldn’t wait for an invitation to tell people about Jesus

**Col. 4: 5** – Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity.

S#21.

**III. One must humble himself before God in trusting obedience. 8-14**

S#22.

**A. Naaman came with a great need, but also with great pride.**

1. He was a very powerful man so he was used to great respect.
  - a. Being the commander of all the armies, he was most likely second to the king.
  - b. **Vs. 18** ... His master leaned on his hand during times of worship.

2. The prophet of God did not acknowledge Naaman’s superiority.

S#23.

- a. Naaman expected to be welcomed as a dignitary.
- b. Elisha treated him like a leper. ... ***He did not even go to the door.***
3. His pride was already wounded, but what came next was the final straw.

**B. The prophet's message was for Naaman to go wash in a dirty old river.**

**II Kings 5: 10** – Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, “Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh will be restored to you and you will be clean.”

1. Naaman was outraged at the instructions of the prophet ... *personally offended*.

**II Kings 5: 12** – “Are not Abanah and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?” So he turned and went away in a rage.

- a. The Jordan river moves slowly and the water is not clear. ( *enemy territory* )
- b. The rivers of Syria were cleaner being sourced from the snow of Mt. Hermon.
2. However, the real problem was the heart of Naaman, not the water.

**C. Naaman was blinded by preconceived ideas. “Behold, I thought”****S#24.**

**II Kings 5: 11** – But Naaman was furious and went away and said, “Behold, I thought, ‘He will surely come out to me and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, and wave his hand over the place and cure the leper.’”

1. What the prophet told him made no sense.
  - a. Dipping in dirty water did not seem very religious to him.
  - b. It ran counter to his experience. He had seen the rituals of the pagan priests.
  - c. What he already knew was within his comfort zone. *If I do “A”, “B” will result*
2. Many today have exactly the same problem.
  - a. Every person on the planet has “**preconceived ideas**” about many things.
  - b. When we go to God, we must overcome our preconceived ideas.

**\* Often we ask unbelievers to put away their preconceived ideas and accept ours.**

3. It is natural to want to feel in control of the process .. **BUT .. we must surrender.**

**D. One who seeks God must trust Him enough to surrender in total obedience.****S#25.**

1. Salvation is not a cooperative effort; ... man is totally dependent upon God.
2. Human pride motivates us to want to feel a part of the process .. *preferably in charge*
3. Most often God wants it to be apparent that he is doing the deed.
  - a. Moses, Jericho, Samson, Gideon
  - b. God also wants it clear that our salvation is NOT a joint effort.

**Eph. 2: 8-9** For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; **9** not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

**S#26.**

**E. It was only when Naaman was willing to surrender self that God healed.**

1. To his mind he did something totally foolish, but it indicated a surrendered heart.
2. Likewise, when one is immersed in Christian baptism, it expresses surrender.

**IV. Once saved from Leprosy Naaman wanted to express his gratitude.****S#27.****A. He offered money to the prophet.**

1. The prophet refused to accept money because God's salvation is free.
2. For the prophet to have accepted money would have been to cheapen God.
3. To have accepted payment would have relieved Naaman's sense of gratitude.

a. Naaman understood he must live out his gratitude.

b. **Vs. 17** ... His asking for dirt indicated that he wanted to take God with him.

\* *He believed God resided in that place.*

**B. Those who are saved by the sacrifice of Christ should be eternally grateful.**

1. Jesus anticipates gratitude.

**S#28.**

**Luke 17: 16-17** he fell on his face at His feet, giving thanks to Him. And he was a Samaritan. <sup>17</sup> Then Jesus answered and said, "Were there not ten cleansed? But the nine—where are they?"

2. The followers of Christ are to be filled with gratitude.

**S#29.**

**Col 2: 6-7** Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, <sup>7</sup> having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude.

3. As the fruit of our gratitude, Jesus requires a lifestyle change.

**CONCLUSION :****A. Thus ... through the story of a foreign leper we learn much about God.****S#30.**

1. He is a God of awesome power.
2. Our God is a God of great compassion.
3. We must trust Him and obey Him.
4. God expects and deserves our eternal gratitude. ( *Demonstrated in our service* )

**B. Do our lives reflect the God we serve.****INVITATION : Have you humbled yourself in obedience to God ?****S#31.**

## Lesson Text :

### II Kings 5: 1-19

**1** Now Naaman, captain of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man with his master, and highly respected, because by him the LORD had given victory to Aram. The man was also a valiant warrior, *but he was* a leper. **2** Now the Arameans had gone out in bands and had taken captive a little girl from the land of Israel; and she waited on Naaman's wife. **3** She said to her mistress, "I wish that my master were with the prophet who is in Samaria! Then he would cure him of his leprosy." **4** Naaman went in and told his master, saying, "Thus and thus spoke the girl who is from the land of Israel." **5** Then the king of Aram said, "Go now, and I will send a letter to the king of Israel." He departed and took with him ten talents of silver and six thousand *shekels* of gold and ten changes of clothes.

**6** He brought the letter to the king of Israel, saying, "And now as this letter comes to you, behold, I have sent Naaman my servant to you, that you may cure him of his leprosy." **7** When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to kill and to make alive, that this man is sending *word* to me to cure a man of his leprosy? But consider now, and see how he is seeking a quarrel against me."

**8** It happened when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, that he sent *word* to the king, saying, "Why have you torn your clothes? Now let him come to me, and he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel." **9** So Naaman came with his horses and his chariots and stood at the doorway of the house of Elisha. **10** Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh will be restored to you and *you will* be clean." **11** But Naaman was furious and went away and said, "Behold, I thought, 'He will surely come out to me and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, and wave his hand over the place and cure the leper.' **12** "Are not Abanah and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?" So he turned and went away in a rage. **13** Then his servants came near and spoke to him and said, "My father, had the prophet told you *to do some* great thing, would you not have done *it*? How much more *then*, when he says to you, 'Wash, and be clean'?" **14** 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.

**15** When he returned to the man of God with all his company, and came and stood before him, he said, "Behold now, I know that there is no God in all the earth, but in Israel; so please take a present from your servant now." **16** But he said, "As the LORD lives, before whom I stand, I will take nothing." And he urged him to take *it*, but he refused. **17** Naaman said, "If not, please let your servant at least be given two mules' load of earth; for your servant will no longer offer burnt offering nor will he sacrifice to other gods, but to the LORD. **18** "In this matter may the LORD pardon your servant: when my master goes into the house of Rimmon to worship there, and he leans on my hand and I bow myself in the house of Rimmon, when I bow myself in the house of Rimmon, the LORD pardon your servant in this matter." **19** He said to him, "Go in peace." So he departed from him some distance.