

Elisha—5

LOVE GOD, LOVE PEOPLE: RIDICULOUS RESTORATION

2 Kings 5:1-15 (NLTSE) [1] *The king of Aram had great admiration for Naaman, the commander of his army, because through him the LORD had given Aram great victories. But though Naaman was a mighty warrior, he suffered from leprosy.*

[2] *At this time Aramean raiders had invaded the land of Israel, and among their captives was a young girl who had been given to Naaman's wife as a maid. [3] One day the girl said to her mistress, "I wish my master would go to see the prophet in Samaria. He would heal him of his leprosy."*

[4] *So Naaman told the king what the young girl from Israel had said. [5] "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. [6] The letter to the king of Israel said: "With this letter I present my servant Naaman. I want you to heal him of his leprosy."*

[7] *When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes in dismay and said, "This man sends me a leper to heal! Am I God, that I can give life and take it away? I can see that he's just trying to pick a fight with me."*

[8] *But when Elisha, the man of God, heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes in dismay, he sent this message to him: "Why are you so upset? Send Naaman to me, and he will learn that there is a true prophet here in Israel."*

[9] *So Naaman went with his horses and chariots and waited at the door of Elisha's house. [10] 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."*

[11] *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! [12] 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.*

[13] *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!'"*

[14] *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!*

[15] *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."*

TRUTHS FROM THIS STORY

God wants to rescue and restore _____!

Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. 1 Timothy 1:15

No matter how _____ someone may _____, they are still _____ and _____.

Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall. Proverbs 16:18

God can use you in your _____ to accomplish great things if you're willing to let him.

You meant it for evil, God meant it for good. Geneis 50:20

Ridiculous Faith keeps you from being _____.

Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. 1 Peter 5:7

Doing things God's way, will always _____.

There is a way which seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death. Prov. 14:12 & 16:25 (NASB)

God can do _____ for you as well!

"I will repay you for the years the locusts have eaten..." Joel 2:25a

¹² "Even now," declares the LORD, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning." ¹³ Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love... Joel 2:12-13a