

Naaman the Leper

The Purpose of the Old Testament To Us

“For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.” (Romans 15:4)

“Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.” (1 Corinthians 10:11)

1. The Old Testament is the greatest place to find stories for sermons.
2. New Testament doctrines can be clearly seen in Old Testament stories.
3. Personal stories are fine, but the best stories are from the word. Let the Bible prove itself.
4. Jesus used many stories from the Old Testament to tell of redemption and His coming as Messiah.

Who Was Naaman?

“Now Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Syria, was a great and honorable man in the eyes of his master, because by him the Lord had given victory to Syria. He was also a mighty man of valor, but a leper.” (2 Kings 5:1)

1. He was “captain of the hose of the King of Syria.”
 - a. He was commander in chief of the king’s army.
 - b. The highest in leadership of his profession.
 - c. His dedication to his profession told of his love for his country and people of the nation.
2. He was “a great man with his master.”
 - a. The king of Syria was strongly devoted, committed to Naaman and his military leadership.
 - b. Naaman was completely trusted, which took years of devotion and a track record of integrity.
 - c. To receive a command from Naaman was to receive a command from the king.
3. He was “honorable.”
 - a. Naaman was true to himself.
 - b. His word was his bond and a handshake from him was all that was needed.
 - c. Naaman was high in royal favor because he was trustworthy, not only on the field of battle, but in private business with his family, the people of Syria and the king.

4. "By him, the Lord had given deliverance to Syria."
 - a. He was, unknowingly, used by God to win battles.
 - b. His heart was open to know the truth and God was preparing him to become a believer in the Lord.
 - c. Naaman had a divine destiny.
5. "He was also a man of valor."
 - a. He was skilled in military tactics, and he was also brave, daring, and fearless.
 - b. He put his own life on the line many times in defense of his country and fellow soldiers.
 - c. He had many awards and medals proving his bravery.
6. "He was a leper."
 - a. This cast a shadow over all the wonderful traits in his life and career.
 - b. Nothing else mattered as he was facing death.
 - c. Although everyone thought highly of him. They could not save him from this incurable disease.

Leprosy is a Type of Sin, Our Fallen Condition

1. All disease is both the fruit and evidence of sin in the Levitical law.
2. The leper did not see a physician, but the high priest in dealing with the disease before God.
3. There was no prescription remedy but only a miracle could cure the leper.
4. The leper was cut off from the dwelling place of God and the people. He was placed "outside the camp."

The Disease Itself

1. Leprosy has an insignificant beginning. "a rising, scab, or bright spot" (Leviticus 13:2).
2. Leprosy is inherited. It is a communicable disease, poisoning the blood, and is transmitted from parent to child. The same is with the curse of Adam, sin passed onto all men (Psalm 51:5, Romans 5:12).
3. Leprosy works almost imperceptibly. Little pain is attached to the disease and only toward the end of the disease is the horribleness seen. It is like the "deceitfulness of sin" (Hebrews 3:13).
4. Leprosy spreads rapidly. Though it begins with certain spots under the skin which are small at first, they gradually increase in size, eventually affecting the whole body. The corruption goes inwardly as well as outward, even into the bone marrow (Romans 7:18).
5. Leprosy is highly infectious. Those who saw a leper coming were to cry out "unclean" (Proverbs 4:4-5).
6. The leper was hated by those in society (Job 19:19).
7. Leprosy is a state of living death. There is discoloration of the skin, loss of senses, and spreading ulcers. The fingers, toes, and nose drop off. Vision is impaired and sometimes blindness results. "The leper is a walking sepulcher."

8. Leprosy was incurable so far as the Old Testament was concerned. No medicine could cure it. No doctor could treat it. It could only be remedied by a miracle from God (Hebrews 7:25, Matthew 8:3, 1 John 1:7).

The Cleansing Miracle

Naaman was guided by three people in his road to healing. They were not people of nobility or royalty, but common people in his home, Israel, and his staff.

1. A young Jewish girl – She was taken into his home as a servant. Told Naaman of the miracle ministry of Elisha.
2. Elisha's servant – He came out of the house and told Naaman he was to dip in the Jordan River seven times.
3. His own servant – Convinced him that Elisha did not ask him to do something difficult, only humbling.

Naaman did what the prophet asked of him. He came out of the water the seventh time completely cleaned and healed of the disease.

What man could not do – the God of Israel did. He must have become a believer in the Lord that day, dedicating his life to convincing Syrians of the truth of redemption.