

NAAMAN

Int.

1. Aim: To tell the story and compare leprosy to sin in our life.
2. II Kings 5:1-14 tells about the man named Naaman who had leprosy
 - a. Was this really a man who had this disease or was it a fable?
 - b. Some believe that part of the bible is real but other parts are fables or myths.
 - c. The story about Noah, Jonah and Naaman are three of those that are considered to be myths or fables by a great many people today.
 - d. But the Bible is so arranged that you cannot accept part of it and reject other parts or sections
 - (1) Noah is mentioned in Gen 6-9 - but we also read about it in Matt. 24:37-39
 - (2) Jonah is discussed in the book called Jonah but also in Matt. 12:39-40
 - (3) Naaman is introduced to us in II Kings 5 but also mentioned in Lk. 4:27
3. The story of Naaman is real and therefore is a valuable account that helps us learn some lessons about life.
4. The Characters in this story: Naaman, little maid, King of Israel, Elisha, Servants

Discussion

Part I The Story

I. SAD MAN

- A. The assets of Naaman
 1. Captain of the hosts
 2. Great man - held in highest esteem
 3. Honorable man - confidence of his master
 4. Mighty man of valor - very strong, he had all the qualifications of a general

B. His one liability - "...but he was a leper."

1. This more than offset all his advantages
2. There was absolutely nothing he could do
3. Neither was there anything his king could do for him.

C. Disease of Naaman

1. Body was covered with white scales - looked like snow
2. Worst corruption this side of the grave
3. Leprosy is caused by a microorganism, bacillus leprae, similar to the tubercle bacillus
 - a. It is contagious by close personal contact
 - b. A leper is a danger to his family, and no other disease reduces a human being for so many years to such a hideous wreck¹
4. Three signs of leprosy:
 - a. Bright spot
 - b. Rising of the surface of the skin
 - c. Scales - layers of scales
5. The little organisms that cause leprosy burrow under the skin
6. They breed in the garments - years later the clothes can infect a person

D. The little Maid's suggestion

1. Syrians had captured her from Israel - she helped Naaman's wife
2. Evidently she had God fearing parents

¹ Dictionary of New Testament by Hastings Vol. II P. 25

3. "And she said unto her mistress, Would God my lord were with the prophet that is in Samaria! for he would recover him of his leprosy." 2 Kings 5:3
4. The little maid's advice was heeded
 - a. Her word was believed because of her life
 - b. They sent men and goods to the King of Israel

E. King of Israel is disturbed

1. He knew only God could heal him of leprosy
2. He thought the Syrian king wanted a fuss

F. Elisha calls for him

1. He hears about this incident and tells the king "...Wherefore hast thou rent thy clothes? let him come now to me, and he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel." 2 Kings 5:8
2. Naaman came and stood at the door of the house of Elisha
3. The messenger came out and told him : "... Go and wash in Jordan seven times, and thy flesh shall come again to thee, and thou shalt be clean." 2 Kings 5:10

II. A MAD MAN

A. Naaman was angry man - violently angry

1. He was very provoked and angry v. 11 wrath - v. 12 rage
2. Why was he mad ?
 - a. The prophet treated him without ceremony
 - b. He appointed him a simple way to be healed of his leprosy

B. Behold I thought:

1. He will come out to me
2. And Stand before me
3. He will call on the name of Jehovah his God
4. He will strike his hand over the place of leprosy

C. He wanted to substitute

1. He felt Abana and Pharpar were just as good as Jordan maybe even better - not muddy like the Jordan river.
2. He asks "may I not wash in them, and be clean?"

D. Servants spoke to him

1. If he had told you to do something very difficult and expensive you would have tried to do it.
2. Why not do that which he tells you that is not expensive and easy to do and will take a short time to do.?

III. A GLAD MAN

A. He went down and dipped 7 times in Jordan

1. His flesh was like a child
2. He was cleansed of leprosy

B. Returned to prophet and praised God

1. No God but the God of Israel
2. He wanted to give a present
3. Elisha refused

- C. Offered him gold and silver
 - 1. The amount that 2 mules could carry
 - 2. No, go in peace, be a worshiper of God and maintain they holy life
 - 3. The Lord pardon thee of thy sins.

PART II THE APPLICATION

I. A SAD MAN

- A. What leprosy is to the body, Sin is to the soul
 - 1. Leprosy was hated, dreaded and contagious
 - 2. The same is also true of Sin
 - 3. Leprosy destroys the body, Sin destroys the soul - Rom. 6:23

- B. Leprosy and Sin compared
 - 1. Begins with a small infection - sin begins with a thought
 - 2. The spot is very noticeable - our sin becomes well known
 - 3. Soon spreads over body - sin invades our very life
 - 4. Very contagious - sin spreads to others - they are influenced by our sins
 - 5. Become unfit for society - in sin we are abominable
 - 6. Should be separated from Society - but because of universality of sin it is not possible to be separated from all the world - 10 lepers could live together with no danger to one another
 - 7. Must proclaim uncleanness - must be humble and proclaim sinfulness and ask for God's help

C. Further comparisons

1. Leprosy is incurable by human means - sin is only removed by the hand of God
2. Sacrifices offered to be declared clean - without shedding of blood there is no remission of sins
3. When leper was cleansed he offered gifts as proof of grateful heart - when sinner is forgiven he offers life of obedience as proof of gratefulness

D. We are sad people when we have sin in our life !

1. It separates us from God and happiness !
2. We must be cleansed of this to be happy !
3. Naaman was a good moral man, but he still had leprosy and was doomed - we may be good men and women but as long as we have sin our lives we're doomed

II. A MAD MAN

A. We get angry

1. Many today go away angry when told what the Lord wants them to do
2. Becoming angry will not change the truth ! Breaking the scales will not change your weight ! "I Thought" "I think"

B. "Behold I thought"

1. Many today are putting what they think up against what God has spoken to us
2. This is the trouble with the religious world - they are guided by their opinions not God's word ! "In my opinion we should" is what they say.
3. God's plan has never been what man would have it to be. God's way is always simple which is contrary to human wisdom

4. 1 Cor. 1:20-25

C. We want to substitute

1. Some today wish to substitute their way and plan for God's way
2. Our salvation is impossible until we are willing to follow God's plan - Matt. 7:21
3. We can't substitute something else for what God has commanded.
4. Many do not think that baptism is necessary even with the Bible telling us that baptism is for the remission of sins. Acts 2:38

D. Many who have done like Naaman, Got mad, and wanted to substitute their way, have thought it over and returned and obeyed the Lord.

III. A GLAD MAN

A. Many go down into the grave of baptism as God commands

1. It washes sins away
2. They are then Pure and free from all sins

B. Return and praise God

1. Eunuch went on his way rejoicing
2. We should be happiest person ever
3. Ought to thank God and praise him in our daily life

C. We ought to give to God

1. Our life
2. Our resources
3. Our energies
4. Then the Lord will pardon us !

Conclusion

1. Do you have leprosy of the soul? Do you have the spots of spiritual infection beginning to appear in your life?
 2. Are you young and just entering sin? If so you must stop the sinful habits. It is easier today than it will be tomorrow.
 3. Are you older and rooted in sin? God has been kind to preserve your life so long. Turn and confess him - seek and ye shall find !
 4. Plan of Salvation = H.B.R.C.B.=SALVATION
 5. You need to be cleansed
 6. Have you been cleansed and not returned to give glory to God
 - a. Lk. 17:12-19 v. 17 "Where are the nine"
 - b. Be dismayed and sorrowful for your backsliding
 - c. Turn back unto God again for he will have thee and love thee freely and forgive thee completely !
 7. Naaman got what he went after when he kept the commandment of God.
 8. We shall get what we want [life] when we obey the commandments of God.
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