

ELISHA SENDS NAAMAN TO THE JORDAN (II Kings 5)

Parts: Narrator
Naaman, Naaman's wife, Naaman's servants
Elisha
Gehazi
King of Israel
King of Syria
captive girl

Narrator:

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 Yehowah had given victory to Syria. He was also a mighty man of valor, but he was a leper. And the Syrians had gone out on raids, and had brought back captive a young girl from the land of Israel. She waited on Naaman's wife.

Captive girl (*to her mistress, Naaman's wife*):

"If only my master were with the prophet who is in Samaria! For he would heal him of his leprosy."

Naaman's wife (*listens to servant, looks thoughtful, walks into next room, pretends to tell Naaman*)

Naaman (*listens to wife, looks thoughtful, walks into master's room, says to king*):

"Thus and thus said the girl who is from the land of Israel."

King of Syria:

"Go now, and I will send a letter to the king of Israel."

Narrator:

So he departed and took with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten changes of clothing. Then he brought the letter to the king of Israel.

Naaman (*enters, presents gift and letter to king of Israel*):

"From Ben Hadad, king of Syria."

King of Israel (*reading letter*):

"Now be advised, when this letter comes to you, that I have sent Naaman my servant to you, that you may heal him of his leprosy."

(king tears his clothes) "Am I Yehowah, to kill and make alive, that this man sends a man to me to heal him of his leprosy? Therefore please consider, and see how he seeks a quarrel with me."

Narrator:

So it was, when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, that he sent to the king.

Gehazi:

"O King, thus says Elisha, 'Why have you torn your clothes? Please let him come to me, and he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel.'"

King of Israel:

"Please, take this gentleman to Elisha."

Narrator:

Then Naaman went with his horses and chariot, and he stood at the door of the house of Elisha. And Elisha sent a messenger to him.

Gehazi:

"My master Elisha says, 'Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored to you, and you shall be clean.'"

Naaman (*furious and walking away*):

"Indeed, I said to myself, 'He will surely come out to me, and stand and call on the name of Yehowah his God, and wave his hand over the place, and heal the leprosy.' Are not the Abanah and the Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?"

(He turns and walks away in a rage)

Servants:

"My father, if the prophet had told you to do something great, would you not have done it? How much more then, when he says to you, 'Wash, and be clean'?"

Narrator:

So he went down and dipped seven times in the Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God.... And his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.

Then Naaman returned to the man of God, he and all his aides, and came and stood before him.

Naaman:

"Indeed, now I know that there is no God in all the earth, except in Israel! Now therefore, please take a gift from your servant."

Elisha:

"As Yehowah lives, before whom I stand, I will receive nothing."

Naaman:

"Please!" (*Urges him to take it*)

Elisha:

"I will receive nothing."

Naaman:

"Then, if not, please let your servant be given two mule-loads of earth; for your servant will no longer offer either burnt offering or sacrifice to other gods, but to Yehowah. Yet in this thing may Yehowah pardon your servant: when my master goes into the temple of Rimmon to worship there, and he leans on my hand, and I bow down in the temple of Rimmon - when I bow down in the temple of Rimmon, may Yehowah please pardon your servant in this thing."

Elisha:

"Go in peace."

(*Naaman departs from him a short distance.*)

Gehazi:

"Look, my master has spared Naaman this Syrian, while not receiving from his hands what he brought; but as Yehowah lives, I will run after him and take something from him."

(*Gehazi pursues Naaman*)

Naaman (*sees Gehazi running after him, gets down from chariot to meet him*):

"Is all well?"

Gehazi:

"All is well. My master has sent me, saying, `Indeed, just now two young men of the sons of the prophets have come to me from the mountains of Ephraim. Please give them a talent of silver and two changes of garments.'"

Naaman:

"Please, take two talents."

Narrator:

And he urged him, and bound two talents of silver in two bags, with two changes of garments, and handed them to two of his servants; and they carried them on ahead of him. When he came to the citadel, he took them from their hand, and stored them away in the house; then he let the men go, and they departed.

Gehazi (*returns, stands before his master*)

Elisha:

"Where did you go, Gehazi?"

Gehazi:

"Your servant did not go anywhere."

Elisha:

"Did not my heart go with you when the man turned back from his chariot to meet you? Is it time to receive money and to receive clothing, olive groves and vineyards, sheep and oxen, male and female servants? Therefore the leprosy of Naaman shall cling to you and your descendants forever."

Narrator:

And he went out from his presence leprous, as white as snow.

(The End)