

WHEN ALL
YOU NEED
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When All Your Power Isn't Enough

March 19, 2023 Message Notes

TEXT: 2 KINGS 5

Many Bible stories tell of people trapped in their own self will. Pride kept them from trusting God and obeying His call on their lives. Is this a struggle for you? It doesn't have to be! When you realize your power isn't enough, God can work in you and bring change.



NOTES

“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations forever and ever, Amen.”

Ephesians 3:20-21

Naaman was a powerful and rich man in Syria. He didn't believe in miracles or the God of Israel.

“The only way to get along? You must be strong. You must be tough. Life is one big bluff.” (Song: “I Don't Believe in Miracles”)

Having leprosy then has been compared to having AIDS now. It was one of the most feared diseases of the time.

“Now Naaman was commander of the army of the king of Aram. He was a great man in the sight of his master and highly regarded because through him the Lord had given victory to Aram. He was a valiant soldier, but he had leprosy.”

2 Kings 5:1

He had all of the power, but it wasn't enough.

“Now bands from Aram had gone out and taken captive a young girl from Israel and she served Naaman's wife. She said to her mistress, ‘If only my master would see the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy!’ Naaman went to his master and told him what the girl from Israel had said, ‘By all means, Go! I'll send a letter to the king of Israel.’”

2 Kings 5:2-4

“With this letter I'm sending my servant Naaman so that you may cure him of his leprosy.”

2 Kings 5:6

Elisha hears of the king's problem and offers to help Naaman.

“Go wash yourself seven times in the Jordan and your flesh will be restored and you will be cleansed.”

2 Kings 5:10

“I thought he would surely come out to me and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, wave his hand over the spot and cure me of my leprosy.”

2 Kings 5:11

Naaman is enraged and offended, and leaves – with all his power and his disease.



“If the prophet had told you to do some great thing, wouldn't you have done it? How much more when he tells you, 'Wash and be cleansed'?”

2 Kings 5:13

The turning point for Naaman came when, in desperate desperation, he goes down and dips himself in the murky Jordan seven times, just as the man of God had told him.

“His flesh was restored and became like that of a young boy.”

2 Kings 5:14

“The man who can't change his mind can't change anything.”

It's not until he uses his power to change his mind that God changes his circumstances.

Could the same be true for you?

The key to unlocking the Higher Power is turning from your own.

When he lets God's thoughts supersede his thoughts, the miracle finds him.

Naaman suffered from hubris: exaggerated human pride, over-inflated self-confidence.

Many Bible stories tell of people trapped in their own self-will: Pharaoh Ramses, Goliath, Samson, the Rich Fool.

Naaman releases his pride. Gets over himself and his ideas, his disbelief. He gets over his sense of entitlement - that he somehow deserves better. Gets over the need to tell God how to do His business.

When he humbles himself and changes his mind to align with the mind of God, his cleansing comes.

People can look at the gospel story, the cross and Jesus Christ and see weakness instead of God's power.

“It has been our misfortune to have the wrong religion. Why did it have to be Christianity with its meekness and flabbiness?” – Adolf Hitler to Albert Speer

“Life itself is essentially appropriation, injury, overpowering of what is alien and weaker.” – Nietzsche, Beyond Good and Evil



Naaman's story reveals a greater power than human pride. Humility.

The miracle of a child's faith – humility over hubris - shared with her enemy.

Naaman's moment of truth comes when he realizes nothing he's tried has worked.

Buried with Christ in baptism to rise and walk in newness of life. It's a symbol of cleansing, washed in the blood of the spotless Lamb of God. Filled with the Spirit of the risen Christ himself.

Submit your life to God and his care. Trust in Christ as your Savior and Lord.

“Now I know that there is no God in all the world except in Israel.”
2 Kings 5:15

“Sometimes it takes the sting of pain to activate passion and seek God's purpose in your life.” –
Actor, Chadwick Boseman

“God says in Jeremiah, ‘I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future.’”

“Remember, the struggles along the way are only meant to shape you for your purpose.” –
Actor, Chadwick Boseman

When you realize your power isn't enough, release your way to God's way and watch him make a way!

When he changed his mind, God changed his circumstances.

What would've happened to Naaman if he hadn't changed his mind? He'd have died from leprosy and pride.

“Humble yourself in the sight of the Lord and he will lift you up.”
1 Peter 5:6

Where has pride kept you from trusting God, obeying His call on your life?

Today can be the day of salvation - the day of healing and freedom.

Release your way to God's way and watch him make a way!
Change your mind and trust God to change your circumstances.

