

International Christian Community

LESSON 3 – ABC SENIOR

**TURN OFF ATTITUDE AND TURN
ON GRATITUDE**

NAAMAN AND THE LEPER

Naaman was a mighty captain of the Syrian army and honourable man but he suffered from leprosy. There was a young maid servant in Naaman's household who told him of a prophet, Elisha, in Samaria who could help him. Naaman told his king of this and the king told Naaman to do to Samaria and he would send a letter to the King of Israel. Naaman departed with some money, taking the letter to the king of Israel. In response to the letter from the king of Syria, for the king Israel to make Naaman well, the king torn his clothes in anguish. He knew it is not in his power to perform miracles and feared retaliation from the Syrian King. When Elisha the prophet heard of this, he told the king to send Naaman to him. On Naaman's arrival at Elisha's house, Elisha sent a messenger out to him to tell him to go and wash seven times in the river Jordon for his healing. Naaman did not receive Elisha's message well, he was angry that Elisha did not come out to meet him and heal him in the way he expected. After Naaman left in anger his servants came to him saying; if the prophet had asked him to do something great he would have done it, how much more should he listen to Elisha's instruction to wash and be made clean. So Naaman did wash seven times in the river Jordan and he was healed of the leprosy, then he took his company and went and thanked Elisha and acknowledged the God of Israel, wanting to bless Elisha.

BIBLE READING: 2KINGS 5: 1-15

¹Now Naaman, captain of the arm of the king of Syria, was a great man with his master, and honourable, because by him Yahweh had given victory to Syria: he was also a mighty man of valour, [but he was] a leper. ²the Syrians had gone out in bands, and had brought away captive out of the land of Israel a little maiden; and she waited on Naaman's wife. ³she said her mistress, would that my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! Then would he recover him of his leprosy. ⁴One went in, and told his lord, saying, thus and thus said the maiden who is of the land of Israel. ⁵the king of Syria, Go now, and will send a letter to the king of Israel. He departed, and took with him ten talents of silver, and six thousand [pieces] of gold, and ten changes of clothing. ⁶he brought the letter to the king of Israel, saying, Now when this letter is come to you, behold, I have sent Naaman my servant to you, that you may recover him of his leprosy. ⁷it happened, when the king of Israel had read the letter, that he tore his clothes, and said, Am I God, to kill and to make alive, that this man does send to me to recover a man of

his leprosy? But consider, I pray you, and see how he seeks a quarrel against me. 8It was so, when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, that he sent to the king, saying, why have you torn your clothes?

Let him come now to me, and he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel. ⁹So Naaman came with his horses and with his chariots, and stood at the door of the house of Elisha. ¹⁰Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh come again to you shall be clean. ¹¹But Naaman was angry, and went away, and said, Behold, I thought, He will surely come out to me, and stand call on the name of Yahweh his God, and wave his hand over the place, and recover the leper. ¹²Aren't Abanah and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? May I not wash in them, and be clean? So he turned and went away in a rage. ¹³His servants came near, and spoke to him, and said, My father, the prophet had did you do some great thing, wouldn't you have done it? How much rather then, when he says to you, wash, and be clean? ¹⁴then went him down, and dipped [himself] seven times in the Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God; and his flesh came again like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean. ¹⁵He returned to the man of God, he and all his company, and came, and stood before him; and he said, see now, I know that there is no God in all the earth, but in Israel: now therefore, please take a present from your servant.

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION

1. The humble carry the voice of the Lord.

Despite, Naaman being a mighty captain who brought victory to Syria and also being an honourable man, he was afflicted with leprosy. Yet the key that led to his deliverance came from a servant girl.

2King 5:2 e 3 'And the Syrians had gone out by companies, and had brought away captive out of the land of Israel a little maid; and she waited on Naaman's wife. 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'.

Even though that she was a captive in Naaman's house, she did not show arrogance nor did she allow Naaman to continue to suffer but was able put aside her own circumstances so the head of her house maybe made well.

As children of God who are placed by divine order under various authorities, we must be able to put aside our personal agendas; that may cause us to be bitter and arrogant, to support the leader of our house so that the affliction in the house maybe healed. Like those who joined David in his battle (1 Chronicles 12)

- The servant girl discerned there was a need in her house; the mission was to gain healing for Naaman. As a child of God, being trained to be a potential leader in the house God, that he has placed you in. What is the vision of your church you leader?

Consider the maid servant's approach in sharing the key Naaman's healing in verse. 3 She was modest in her appeal and not demanding ('if only my master were with the prophet in Samaria') or boastful that she had the key to Naaman's healing.

In our encounters with people especially those who are afflicted, an unpretentious spirit and attitude is important (2 Timothy 2: 24 e 25)

- Can you think of any incidences when your attitude deterred the message you were carrying?

2Chronicles 7:14 'If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land'.

Naaman's story is an illustration of this promise of God. Healing was ushered in by the humble servant girl and not the mighty captain.

2. Pride can keep you from being whole

The 1ST verse of the chapter paints a picture of a superior human being, that of Naaman being a powerful and honourable man; however this was tapered by leprosy. Leprosy is a stigmatised disease and something that cannot be hidden and is generally considered as incurable. As human beings we all have sins, according to; 1 Timothy 5:24; some are explicit, so no man has as right to consider himself superior to another.

Naaman's ego could have kept him from accessing Elisha's grace in verse 11 'But Naaman was wroth, and went away, and said, behold, I thought, he will surely come out to me, and call on the name of the LORD his God, and strike his hand over the place, and recover the leper.'

12[Are] not Abana and pharpar, rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? May I not wash in them, and be clean? So he turned and away in a rage'.

Teenagers have a tendency to be self centred; however, if we desire a double portion of the anointing we must rise above ourselves and submit to others, like Elijah did to Elisha (1King 19:19). Naaman was because he did not remain in his arrogance and did eventually follow the words of his sent one and was healed.

- Can you of instances in the bible where people forfeited their blessing because they were unable to submit to their sent one?

3. Show Gratitude

There is a global trend of ungratefulness amongst young people; Paul speaks of a people like this in Romans 1:21. Despite, Naaman's affliction he was not thankful when Elisha presented a solution to him. We must remember the principle of reception determines reward according to Colossians 3:15 'And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful'.

2Kings 5:15 'And he returned to the man of God, he and all his company, and came, and stood before him: and he said, behold, now I know that [there is] no God in all the earth, but in Israel: now therefore, I pray thee, take a blessing of thy servant'.

Naaman was able to return and give thanks to Elisha; this is a sign that he was able to humble himself. God requires us to return thanks (Luke 17, the ten lepers). A Thankful spirit leads others to God (he and all his company, and came, and stood before him) and causes them to acknowledge the sovereignty of God (Behold, now I know that [there is] no God in all the earth).

- Encourage a culture of gratefulness by going around the class and asking for three things everyone is thankful to God for.

QUESTION

1. Why do you think a servant girl was entrusted to bring a solution to a mighty captain like Naaman?
2. Why did the king of Israel tear his clothes when the king of Syria requested him to heal Naaman?
3. What was Naaman's response to Elisha and why did he respond this way?
4. How did Naaman manifest his change of attitude?
5. What 2 things does a grateful attitude accomplish for the kingdom of God?