

HE UNCLEAN CHURCH (ABC) – LESSON 33

QUESTION

READ 2 KINGS 5

DETAIL THE FEATURES OF AN UNCLEAN CHURCH AS PICTURED IN THE LIFE OF NAAMAN.

ANSWERS (ABC) - LESSON 33

Lev 13:45-46

45 "Now the leper on whom the sore is, his clothes shall be torn and his head bare; and he shall cover his mustache, and cry, 'Unclean! Unclean!'

46 "He shall be unclean. All the days he has the sore he shall be unclean. He is unclean, and he shall dwell alone; his dwelling shall be outside the camp.

(NKJ)

COMES FROM SYRIA

II Ki 5:1

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.(NKJ)

Syria means exalted or loftiness. It carries connotations of pride. Naaman comes from a place that means pride. Pride is a recurring element found in the story of Naaman. Pride is associated with uncleanness. Uncleanness means defilement.

Mark 7:20-23

20 And He said, "What comes out of a man, that defiles a man.

21 "For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders,

22 "thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness.

23 "All these evil things come from within and defile a man."(NKJ)

HIS MASTER IS THE SYRIAN KING

II Ki 5:1

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Naaman served the Syrian king – a type of Satan. The unclean church serves Satan.

John 8:41-45

41 "You do the deeds of your father." Then they said to Him, "We were not born of fornication; we have one Father-- God."

42 Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and came from God; nor have I come of Myself, but He sent Me.

43 "Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My word.
44 "You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.
45 "But because I tell the truth, you do not believe Me.(NKJ)

PROSPERITY DOES NOT VALIDATE SPIRITUAL CONDITION

II Ki 5:1

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.(NKJ)

Naaman was great and honorable. He had many victories in the battlefield, but he was a leper. Leprosy was a condition that locked you out of the temple. It is a symbol of separation from God. The unclean church may be prosperous but separated from the presence of God. Thus prosperity does not validate one's spiritual condition.

CARRIES A LETTER OF DEMAND

II Ki 5:5-6

5Then the king of Syria said, "Go now, and I will send a letter to the king of Israel." So he departed and took with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten changes of clothing. 6Then he brought the letter to the king of Israel, which said, 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(NKJ)

Naaman did not carry an humble request for healing, but a letter of demand. Feelings of entitlement are a feature of pride.

Haman felt entitled to attention and admiration.

Esth 3:5

When Haman saw that Mordecai did not bow or pay him homage, Haman was filled with wrath(NKJ)

Uzziah felt entitled to burn incense.

2 Chr 26:16

But when he was strong his heart was lifted up, to his destruction, for he transgressed against the LORD his God by entering the temple of the LORD to burn incense on the altar of incense.(NKJ)

DEMANDS FLAMBOYANT ATTENTION

II Ki 5:9-11

9Then Naaman went with his horses and chariot, and he stood at the door of Elisha's house. 10And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored to you, and you shall be clean." 11But Naaman became furious, and went away and said, "Indeed, I said to myself, 'He will surely come out to me, and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, and wave his hand over the place, and heal the leprosy.'(NKJ)

The unclean church is trapped in the realm of flamboyant, external gestures of spirituality.

CANNOT OBEY THE MAN OF GOD

II Ki 5:10-12

10 And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored to you, and you shall be clean."

11 But Naaman became furious, and went away and said, "Indeed, I said to myself, 'He will surely come out to me, and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, and wave his hand over the place, and heal the leprosy.'

12 "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?" So he turned and went away in a rage.(NKJ)

The unclean church cannot take instructions from a man of God.

CANNOT GO DOWN TO JORDAN

II Ki 5:10-12

10 And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored to you, and you shall be clean."

11 But Naaman became furious, and went away and said, "Indeed, I said to myself, 'He will surely come out to me, and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, and wave his hand over the place, and heal the leprosy.'

12 "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?" So he turned and went away in a rage.(NKJ)

Jordan means descending – a picture of humility.

The unclean church cannot humble itself.

CARRIES ACCURATE REVELATION

II Ki 5:15

And he returned to the man of God, he and all his aides, and came and stood before him; and he said, "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."(NKJ)

The unclean church knows the truth.

ITS GIVING IS PAYING

II Ki 5:15-16

15 And he returned to the man of God, he and all his aides, and came and stood before him; and he said, "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."

16 But he said, "As the LORD lives, before whom I stand, I will receive nothing." And he urged him to take it, but he refused.(NKJ)

Elisha refused the gift because he knew that it would be construed as paying for healing.

SACRIFICES TO GOD WHOM HE CANNOT OBEY

II Ki 5:17-18

17 So Naaman said, "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 the LORD.
18 "Yet in this thing may the LORD 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 the LORD please pardon your servant in this thing."(NKJ)

Naaman was prepared to offer burnt offerings and sacrifices to the Lord but would continue to bow in the temple of Rimmon. The unclean church can sacrifice, but cannot renounce false worship. The unclean church cannot obey God.

Exod 20:3-5

3"You shall have no other gods before Me.

4"You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth;

5you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me,(NKJ)

CANNOT CHANGE ITS MASTER

II Ki 5:17-18

17 So Naaman said, "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 the LORD.
18 "Yet in this thing may the LORD 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 the LORD please pardon your servant in this thing."(NKJ)

The unclean church cannot change its master even after a unique miracle - this church still calls the Syrian king its master.

RELATES TO GOD THROUGH TWO MULE LOADS OF SAND

II Ki 5:17-18

17 So Naaman said, "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 the LORD.
18 "Yet in this thing may the LORD 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 the LORD please pardon your servant in this thing."(NKJ)

Naaman wanted two mule loads of sand to relate to the God of Israel.

The unclean church is EARTHY.

This church relates to God through dirt + dirt – not spirit and truth.

MISSES THE MAIN THING

II Ki 5:19

Then he said to him, "Go in peace." So he departed from him a short distance.
(NKJ)

Naaman got the money, his healing and peace, but missed out on the main thing - the God of Israel.

GETS INFORMATION FROM SERVANTS

Naaman gets his information from secondary sources.

II Ki 5:2-4

2 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.

3 Then she said to her mistress, "If only my master were with the prophet who is in Samaria! For he would heal him of his leprosy."

4 And Naaman went in and told his master, saying, "Thus and thus said the girl who is from the land of Israel."(NKJ)

II Ki 5:13

13 And his servants came near and spoke to him, and said, "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'?"(NKJ)

The first two times he was accurate, but the third time he was deceived.

II Ki 5:20-23

20 But Gehazi, the servant of Elisha the man of God, said, "Look, my master has spared Naaman this Syrian, while not receiving from his hands what he brought; but as the LORD lives, I will run after him and take something from him."

21 So Gehazi pursued Naaman. When Naaman saw him running after him, he got down from the chariot to meet him, and said, "Is all well?"

22 And he said, "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.'"

23 So Naaman said, "Please, take two talents." 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.(NKJ)

DOES NOT VERIFY THE FACTS

II Ki 5:22-23

22 And he said, "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.'"

23 So Naaman said, "Please, take two talents." 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.(NKJ)

Naaman gullibly accepts Gehazi. The unclean church does not verify the facts.

ACTIVATES GREED

II Ki 5:20

But Gehazi, the servant of Elisha the man of God, said, "Look, my master has spared Naaman this Syrian, while not receiving from his hands what he brought; but as the LORD lives, I will run after him and take something from him."(NKJ)

Naaman's arrival manifested the greed in Gehazi's heart.

PASSES ITS DISEASE TO OTHERS

II Ki 5:25-27

25 Now he went in and stood before his master. Elisha said to him, "Where did you go, Gehazi?" And he said, "Your servant did not go anywhere."

26 Then he said to him, "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?

27 "Therefore the leprosy of Naaman shall cling to you and your descendants forever." And he went out from his presence leprous, as white as snow.(NKJ)

Naaman's leprosy was passed to Gehazi and his descendants. The unclean church passes its defilement to others. The doorway is greed.