

OBSERVATIONS UPON THE STORY OF NAAMAN

II Kings 5: 1 - 14

INTRODUCTION:

1. In this lesson I want to make a series of observations upon this story.
2. I want to draw out some lessons that will help all of us.
3. We notice from the story:

I. RICHES AND DIGNITIES DO NOT EXEMPT MEN FROM THE CALAMITIES OF LIFE.

1. Naaman was great, honorable, and a man of valor -- II Kings 5:1
2. Yet, he was a leper -- II Kings 5:5
3. All men, whether rich or poor, are liable to the afflictions and troubles of the present life -- James 1: 2 - 5; Eccl. 7: 2 - 3; Heb. 5:8
4. None too high or great.
5. None too low or insignificant.

II. THE MOST IMPORTANT EVENTS OFTEN TIMES ARISE FROM APPARENTLY INSIGNIFICANT CAUSES.

1. The Syrians had taken captive a little Israelite maid, and she waited on Naaman's wife -- II Kings 5:2
2. The taking of this little maid captive laid the foundation to the events which led to Naaman's cure.
3. This little maid was the first link of the providential chain which terminates in his recovery.
4. Lessons for us:
 - (1) From time to time we hear of a correspondence course or a tract being the first link in bringing someone to obey the gospel.
 - (2) Sometimes it may be ONE WORD in a sermon that starts one on the road to salvation.
 - (3) Sometimes it is the counsel of a friend.

III. HOW NECESSARY THAT YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE TRUTH OF GOD'S WORD.

1. This little maid was evidently well acquainted with the religion of Israel, her people.
2. She knew enough of Elisha the prophet to convince her that he could recover her master of his leprosy -- II Kings 5:3
3. Had she been ignorant of the religion of Israel she might have lived and died in Naaman's house without being of any particular service to her master.
4. Young people today need to be instructed that they may be preserved from error and seduction in case of being placed among ungodly strangers.

5. They need to be taught that they may be useful in teaching others in whatever place they find themselves in this life.

IV. THE RELIGION OF GOD MAKES ITS POSSESSORS BLESSINGS WHEREVER THEY DWELL.

1. Think what a blessing to Naaman this little maid was.
2. Jacob was a blessing to Laban -- Gen. 30: 27 - 30
3. Joseph was a blessing to Egypt
 - (1) Joseph was a blessing to Potipher -- Gen. 39: 2 - 5
 - (2) He was a blessing to the keeper of the prison -- Gen. 39: 21 - 23
 - (3) He was a blessing to Pharaoh -- Gen. 41
4. Abraham was a blessing to all mankind -- Gen. 12: 1 - 3
5. The nation of Israel was a blessing.
6. Individual Christians are to be a blessing -- Matt. 20: 25 - 28; Matt. 5: 13 - 16

V. KNOWLEDGE IS ONLY USEFUL WHEN REDUCED TO PRACTICE

1. If Naaman had not acted upon what he heard from the little maid, he would have remained a leper.
2. It is not the possession of knowledge on any subject that benefits us, it is the use of that knowledge that benefits -- the giving of it a practical bearing upon our own experience -- James 1: 22 -25

VI. WE OFTEN APPLY TO WRONG SOURCES FOR RELIEF IN TIMES OF TROUBLE.

1. Naaman applied to the king of Israel instead of the prophet, to whom he had been directed -- II Kings 5: 5 - 7
2. Many sinners today go to the wrong place:
 - (1) Some go to the Pope or Priest to be forgiven of sins -- Matt. 9:6
 - (2) Some go to the Law -- Col. 2:14
 - (3) Many go to denominationalism -- II John 9 - 11
3. We must go to Christ -- John 6:68; Matt. 11: 28 - 30

VII. PREACHERS AND TEACHERS OF GOD'S WORD ARE TO SHOW MEN THE WAY OF SALVATION

1. When Naaman had gone to the wrong place -- the king -- Elisha sent for him and communicated to him what he must do to be healed -- II Kings 5: 8 - 10
2. The business of preachers and teachers today is to point men and women to the lamb of God - - I Cor. 2: 1 - 5

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