

Pastor's Corner
Naaman's Slave Girl
12-28-2019

2 Kings 5:1-3 - 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. Now bands of raiders from Aram had gone out and had 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 was a lost man. Though he was highly regarded as a skilled military commander and enjoyed a position of prominence in his homeland, he was a lost. In those days gods were considered territorial and since Naaman lived in Aram he worshiped the god of his country, Rimmon. He had no real knowledge of the God of Israel who claimed to have an authority that transcended geography - "See now that I myself am he! There is no god besides me" (Dt 32:39).

This universal God saw in Naaman a heart worth reaching, but how would he do it? How could God connect with this pagan warrior?

In his wisdom God granted Naaman military victories, even allowing some of his own chosen people to be taken captive by the Aramean soldiers. Among those captured was a young girl. We don't know her name but God had put her in place to be his representative.

In the course of time Naaman was afflicted with leprosy. He surely went to the temple of Rimmon to pray for healing. He likely offered sacrifices beseeching his god to restore him to health. But all his pleas and prayers went unanswered until one day that young Israelite girl, who was serving his wife as a slave, offered the tentative suggestion, "why don't you go see the prophet of Israel?"

It was a radical suggestion, to go to the land of a foreign god to seek healing. But Naaman was desperate and made the journey to see Elisha the prophet of Yahweh.

In the end Naaman is restored to health and he leaves Elisha's home a believer of Yahweh. He is so committed that he takes a truckload of dirt from Israel back to his homeland. Remember, they believed the gods were bound by geography and so Naaman thought that by bringing a piece of Israel home with him he would also be bringing Israel's God. It is clear that Naaman was fully committing to his new faith. He was a changed man. No longer lost, but healed, whole, and a follower of the one true God.

As I read this story I can't help but focus in on that unnamed Israelite slave girl. If it weren't for her confident witness Naaman would never have sought healing from Elisha. If it weren't for her speaking up at the right time, he never would have met the one true God. This servant girl was God's ambassador and she served him well.

As it was in the days of Naaman so it is today. There are men and women all around us who don't know our God and savior. Folks who are just as lost as that ancient pagan commander. Every day we have an opportunity to be ambassadors for Christ and sometimes all it takes is the right word at the right time to change a life forever. If a young girl living as a slave in a foreign land can point someone to God, surely we can as well.

Please join me in praying for opportunities to be an ambassador for Christ.

Blessings,
Pastor Tyler