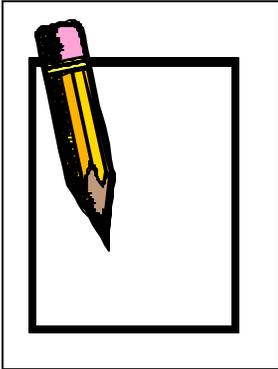
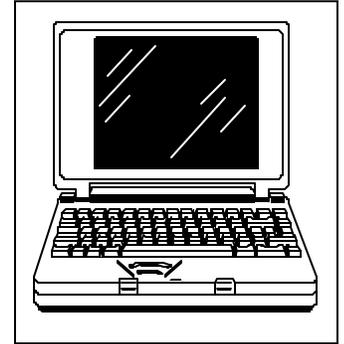


Naaman and Elisha

2 Kings 5



If you had an extremely difficult math problem to solve, which of these tools would you use? Why? In today's story we will see that sometimes the simplest solution is the best solution.



Prayer

Dear Father in Heaven, Thank You for allowing us to gather in Your name today. Bless our study as we learn more about the great power of Your word. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

The Story - summaries and excerpts

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.

{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."

{5} Then 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. {6}

Then 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.

{7} And it happened, when the king of Israel read the letter, that he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to kill and make alive, that this man sends a man to me to heal him of his leprosy? Therefore please consider, and see how he seeks a quarrel with me."

{8} So it was, 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? Please let him come to me, and he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel."

{9} Then Naaman went with his horses and chariot, and he stood at the door of Elisha's house. {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.

{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?'"

{14} So he went down and dipped seven times in the Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God; and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean. {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. {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."

{19} Then he said to him, "Go in peace." So he departed from him a short distance.

Elisha had a servant named Gehazi. After Elisha refused a gift for healing Naaman of the leprosy, Gehazi had an idea. He ran after Naaman and told a lie, saying that Elisha had sent him because two young men were in need of money and clothing (Gehazi was really just being greedy and wanted the goods for himself). Naaman gladly gave him more than he asked for: two talents of silver and two changes of garments. Gehazi gave these things to his servants, who carried them for him so Elisha wouldn't notice them. Then Gehazi hid them in his house and dismissed the servants.

When Elisha asked him, "Where did you go, Gehazi?" he said he had not gone anywhere. But Elisha knew the truth. Therefore, he cursed Gehazi and his descendants with the very leprosy of which Naaman had so recently been cured.

Outer Aim - The Lord through Elisha healed Naaman of his leprosy.

What the Story Tells Us - Answer the following questions.

1. How did the Israelite servant girl demonstrate her faith?
2. How did the king of Israel demonstrate his “lack” of faith?
3. God through Elisha told Naaman to wash seven times in the Jordan River, a simple solution for his problem. Can you think of a “simple” solution to our sin that also involves water? Explain.
4. What difficulty did Naaman foresee would happen after his leprosy was cured? Can you think of a problem that might arise in your life because you are a Christian?
5. Our conscience is a gift from God that warns us when we sin or are being tempted to do so. Explain how one lie led to another for Gehazi.

Inner Aim - God, through Jesus Christ, has taken away our sins.

What God’s Word Tells Us - Look up and copy the following Bible passages. Then explain how they are related to our story.

1 Corinthians 1:16

Passages

2 Timothy 3:15 - and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Psalms 119:105 - Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.

1 John 1:7 - The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

John 3:16 - For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Hymn - Fill in the blanks from TLH #264 v. 3-4. Then sing it together.

Preserve O Lord, thy _____, Thine own blest heritage;
_____, disperse, and scatter those who against Thee _____.
Let Thy _____ guide us, grant us Thy heavenly food;
Clothe us in Thy rich _____, bought with Thy _____ blood.

Preserve Thy Word and _____, the truth that makes us whole,
The _____ of Thy glory, the _____ that saves the soul.
Oh, may this living water, this dew of _____ grace,
_____ us while here living until we see Thy _____.

Prayer

Dear Father in Heaven, Thank You for giving us Your Son, Jesus Christ, to take away all our sins. Because of what He has done, we can be sure of our place in Heaven with You. Let us never think of the Gospel as "too simple" or foolish for us. It is Your Holy Word that leads us to You through the power of Your Holy Spirit! Keep us strong in the faith and help us love You more and more each day. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.