

**Old Testament Characters: Naaman**  
**2 Kings 5:9-12**  
By Russell Earl

Thesis: I want to show what we can learn from the attitudes and actions of Naaman.

- Intro:
1. When you think of Naaman you probably think of the old testament story of a leper.
  2. The story of Naaman can teach us many lessons.
  3. Today we will look at the disease of leprosy and sin, and the many mistakes of Naaman.

I. Leprosy & Sin are two bad diseases

A. Leprosy as a Disease

- 1. Leprosy is contagious and incurable.**
- 2. Leprosy led to isolation.**
- 3. Leprosy has caused untold misery and death.**

B. Sin as a Disease

- 1. There is no human cure for sin (Jer 10:23).**

C. Leprosy & Sin's Similarities

- 1. Both cause distress.**
- 2. Leprosy destroys the body, while in similar fashion sin destroy the soul.**
  - a. Leprosy works on the outward man while sin works on the inward man. (Mt 10:28)
- 3. Leprosy can send the body to the grave while sin can send both body and soul to hell.**
- 4. Neither are healed by any earthly power.**
  - a. In the O.T. leprosy could only be cured by offering a sacrifice to God (Lev 14:4-7).
- 5. Both sin & leprosy start small but spread rapidly.**
- 6. Both are hardly noticeable – at first.**
- 7. Leprosy was regarded as a disgrace, sin is also a disgrace.**

D. The result of both

- 1. There was no escape from leprosy, and there is not escape from unrepented sin (Jn 8:21).**
- 2. The result of leprosy was death, sin has the same result (Rom 6:23).**

II. Mistakes of Naaman

A. Naaman went to the wrong place.

- 1. He failed to listen to the little maid's instructions.**
  - a. Instead of going to Elisha the prophet of God, where she told him to go, he listened to the king of Syria who sent him to Jehoram, who was not on speaking terms with God (2 Kgs 5:3-7)
- 2. In the N.T. some disciples also went to the wrong place (Jn 6:66-69).**

B. Naaman had already decided what Elisha should do (2 Kgs 5:11)

- 1. Naaman expected things to be done a certain way.**
- 2. Not unlike some today, he became upset when things went differently (2 Kgs 5:12).**

C. Naaman wanted to substitute.

1. **Instead of washing in the Jordan, he wanted to wash in Abana or Pharpar back in Syria.**
2. **But to dip in these rivers was not being obedient to God's commands.**

III. Lessons for us today.

A. What Healed Naaman

1. **What healed Naaman was not the water of the Jordan.**
2. **His leprosy remained until he did EXACTLY what was commanded by God's prophet (2 Kings 5:13).**
3. **Today, we will not be pleasing to God until we do EXACTLY what He has commanded.**
  - a. If we fail to listen, like Naaman, we will remain in our sins. Just like Naaman remained a leper.
  - b. If we insist on doing things according to how we expect them to be done, then we will never be right with God, Naaman thought the Prophet should of just came out and heal him right then.
  - c. If we try to substitute what God has said, we will still be in our sins. Naaman wanted to dip where it was more convenient but it wasn't what God commanded. He remained a leper and we too will remain in our sins until we do what God has commanded.

Application & Conclusion:

1. **Naaman was cured by the power of God, by obeying God's command.**
2. **Men today are saved and forgiven of sins when they obey the gospel and not before (Rom 6:17-18, 1:16).**
3. Full Invitation

Non-Christians must:

Hear – James 1:22, Romans 10:15,17

Believe – Jn 12:44, Jn 8:24, Mt 16:16

Repent – Luke 13:2-3

Confess – John 12:42, Romans 10:9

Be Baptized – 1 Pt 3:21, Acts 22:16, Col 2:11, Mk 16:16, Rom 6:3-4

Live faithfully – John 14:15, Rev 2:10

Christians must:

Repent: Acts 17:20, Acts 8:37, Lk 13:3

Pray: James 5:16, 1 Jn 1:9