

GOD'S PLAN IS ALWAYS THE RIGHT PLAN

June 13

2 Kings 5:1-19

Naaman was the Captain of the Host of Syria. A very prestigious position for this “mighty man of valour”. But Naaman had an image problem. He was a leper (vs 1). He needed a plan to get rid of this disease for which there was no cure. I’m sure he had looked everywhere for the cure, but none was to be found.

But unbeknownst to him, God had a plan (as He ALWAYS does!) (Maguires)

Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. Psalms 37:23 The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way. Proverbs 16:1-4 The preparations of the heart in man, and the answer of the tongue, is from the LORD. All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes; but the LORD weigheth the spirits. Commit thy works unto the LORD, and thy thoughts shall be established. The LORD hath made all things for himself: yea, even the wicked for the day of evil. Proverbs 16:9 A man's heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps. Job 31:4 Doth not he see my ways, and count all my steps?

1. **Even the mightiest of men need a little help some times.** So often we feel we can “handle things ourselves” .. that God is really busy and we don’t want to bother Him. But like Naaman .. we need help from time to time. And God has a plan for each and everyone of us.
2. **God’s Plan often comes from the most unlikely of places** (vs 2- 3). This little Maid had a great idea and passed it along to her mistress. Why not ask God for help? But we’re always looking for God’s hand in the most spectacular of places .. and He simply doesn’t work that way. Look at 1 Kings 19:8-13. Sometimes we just need to stand still .. **Numbers 9:8 And Moses said unto them, Stand still, and I will hear what the LORD will command concerning you. Job 37:14 Hearken unto this, O Job: stand still, and consider the wondrous works of God.** When was the last time (if ever) that we just stopped...and listened to the still small voice of God?
3. **So often, we seek God’s plan in the wrong place.** (vs 5 and 6). The King of Israel couldn’t help, but the King of Syria and Naaman assumed that was where the help lay. The world will never hold the answer to our problems, nor will they help us see God’s plan for our lives.
4. **We can’t “buy” God’s favor.** (vs 5). Nothing we have is of value to God, including our finances, our goods and our offerings.
5. **False help will never hold the answer to our problems.** (vs 7). In fact, this help will always be a hindrance in our search for God’s plan for our lives. It will send us down the wrong path.

6. **God's man is where God's plan for our lives lay.** (vs 8) **Proverbs 12:15** The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise. **Proverbs 19:21** There are many devices in a man's heart; nevertheless the counsel of the LORD, that shall stand.

7. **God's plan is always a simple plan, but we want to complicate it.** (vs 10-12) Naaman was looking for a religious answer. Elisha was trying to give him God's answer. People today are looking for "answers" regarding eternal life and salvation. God's simple plan of salvation is ... well .. too simple. Like Naaman, the world gets angry when this simple plan is put forth as the answer to their problem. **Luke 18:17** Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child shall in no wise enter therein. We're to come as a "little child". Innocent, without a bunch of intelligencia or knowledge. Simple, humble and willing to accept a loving God. Our Heavenly Father would not make our plans into an obstacle course.

8. **God's plan always makes sense, if we will just listen.** (vs 13) God is not the God of confusion. **1 Corinthians 14:33** For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints. So it is regarding God's plan for our lives. It's not complicated, but we want to complicate it.

9. **God's plan must be followed just as He lays it out.** (vs 14) Would Naaman have been cleansed if he would have dipped 5 times? How about 6 times? Can we be cleansed of our sins without the redemptive power of the Blood of Christ? How about without repentance?
 - a. Salvation is by grace through faith .. nothing more, nothing less.
 - b. There is nothing we can do to earn our way to heaven.
 - c. God's plan for our lives is laid out in His word. We just have to read the instructions.

10. **Following God's plan will always be enlightening and cause for celebration** (vs 15) There is rejoicing when one lost sinner comes to Christ by accepting this simple plan of salvation. There is also rejoicing in the lives of Christians when we are living in the center of God's plan for our lives.

Naaman's challenge was his leprosy. He was a great man with his master, honourable; God was with him and a mighty man of valour. And Naaman did not complain. But God had a plan to cure his leprosy.

We deal with challenges in our lives, many of which we feel are unable to be cured, like Naaman's leprosy.

- Sickness
- Financial issues
- Unconfessed sin
- Relationship problems
- Etc...

God has a plan to cure our "leprosy" too. Naaman was living his life in the center of where God wanted him. Doing the things that honored and glorified God. This enabled God to reveal His plan, and Naaman's leprosy was healed. And so it is with us. When we are committed to living our lives in the center of the will of God as laid out in the instruction book .. God will reveal his plan for healing our "diseases".