

2. Grace Goes International

- Do you regard yourself as self-reliant and independent?
- Read 2 Kings 5:1-14
- What do you notice about the different characters in the story - Naaman, the Servant girl, the King of Israel, & Elisha?
- What did that mean for a Commander of Naaman's stature, when he is asked to go to a prophet in Israel?
- Who was most instrumental in Naaman's healing?
- Why do you think that was the case?
- What did Naaman expect?

Naaman was healed when he followed the instructions he was given.

- Have you ever become aware of God speaking to you through some unexpected source?
- Have you ever been asked to do something that you felt should be done by someone else or done in a different way that you thought better? How did you feel about that?
- What can we learn from the reading today about humility?

'Submission to the will of God...requires that I finally learn to relinquish my rabid devotion to self-will.'

[Joan Chittister : Radical Spirit : Convergent Books : 2017 : P.46]

- Do you agree with the quote above? How do we discern what God's will for us may be?
- Close in prayer, spending some time in quiet to listen to what God may be saying to you.



2 Kings

The king of Syria was Ben Hadad II, and as commander of the army, Naaman was the number two man in the nation.

But with all his prestige, authority, and wealth, Naaman was a doomed man because under his uniform was the body of a leper. Naaman couldn't leave Syria without the king's permission, and he also needed an official letter of introduction to Joram, king of Israel. After all, Syria and Israel were enemies, and the arrival of the commander of the Syrian army could be greatly misunderstood. Both Naaman and Ben Hadad wrongly assumed that the prophet would do whatever the king commanded him to do and that both the king and the prophet would expect to receive expensive gifts in return. King Joram's reaction (tearing his clothes) may have been in anguish at what he assumed to be a possible declaration of war. Naaman travelled over 100 miles to Samaria but was unwilling to travel another 30 miles on to the Jordan river.

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[Warren Wiersbe : Be Distinct : IVP 'Be Series' via Logos]

