

WASH AND BE CLEAN

A FAMILY DEVOTION

10 Elisha sent out a servant to meet him with this message: "Go to the River Jordan and immerse yourself seven times. Your skin will be healed and you'll be as good as new."

11-12 Naaman lost his temper. He spun around saying, "I thought he'd personally come out and meet me, call on the name of God, wave his hand over the diseased spot, and get rid of the disease. The Damascus rivers, Abana and Pharpar, are cleaner by far than any of the rivers in Israel. Why not bathe in them? I'd at least get clean." He stomped off, mad as a hornet.

13 But his servants caught up with him and said, "Father, if the prophet had asked you to do something hard and heroic, wouldn't you have done it? So why not this simple 'wash and be clean'?"

14 So he did it. He went down and immersed himself in the Jordan seven times, following the orders of the Holy Man. His skin was healed; it was like the skin of a little baby. He was as good as new.

2 Kings 5:10-14

In our bible story, we learn the story of a man named Naaman. Naaman was a great soldier and was very popular in his kingdom. Sadly he had a disease called leprosy that showed on his skin that he wished to be healed from. He was sent to the King with a letter asking to heal him, but the king got angry and sent him away. However, a prophet Elisha heard and sent a messenger to Naaman to tell him to bathe in the Jordan River and his skin will be healed. Naaman was angry that Elisha didn't simply wave his hand and demand that God heal him. He refused to go to the Jordan River. Once his servants convinced him, he went to the river and was healed!

So what can we learn from Naaman?

Naaman wished for a more extravagant, flashy way to be healed. He wanted an easy quick fix to his problem and refused to listen to the prophet. Sometimes we can do the same thing. We decide how we want things to go and we miss God's voice giving us very simple instructions. Sometimes we may even refuse God's help. But what we learn from this story is to always listen to God and obey his teachings. Leaning on our own understanding leads to a lot more frustration and leads us away from the peace of God and all the good he has planned for us. When we decide to be open to the voice of God, we are able to have true peace.

Dear God,
Allow us to hear and follow your
Instruction. We ask that you remain with us
and remind us to accept your peace.
Amen.