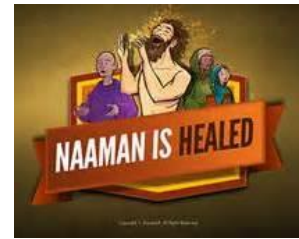




Slave Girl saves her Master

(Second Kings 5:1 -19. TLB)



A Slave girl's gift of healing to an enemy General.

(This is one of theanswerer's favourite stories. See www.theanswerer.com.au)

Why? Well first, I like how God made little girls. They are mostly full of fun and very helpful and kind. The girl in this story had been stolen or kidnapped in a raid by the enemy, (that was fairly common in those days) and she was given as a house helper to the wife of the Syrian Army's General Naaman. She did not spend her day scowling and complaining, but seemed to be happy and trusted in God.

But ... General Naaman had leprosy - a very bad skin disease. The king liked him very much as he was a very good army General and had won many battles.



The little girl said to General Naaman's wife: "I wish my master would go to see the prophet in Samaria. He would heal him of his leprosy" (v.3 TLB) *WOW!*

The General could to be healed? Terrific!

So General Naaman went to his king, and 'Yes' the king was happy for Naaman to go. The king wrote a letter to the king of Samaria requesting healing and sending 340 kg of gold, 70 kg of silver and ten sets of clothing to pay for the healing. (Clothing was very valuable then). The Syrian king knew nothing of the prophet's Lord God who would do the healing and no payment was ever needed!

Bad move! Of course the king of Samaria cannot heal and thinks the letter and Naaman are a plot to start another war and rips his robes in frustration. God's prophet, Elijah hears about the king ripping his clothes and sends a message: "Tell Naaman to come to my place."

He does come and now the story gets tricky- different to what you would expect.

Elisha tells his servant Gehazi to: "Tell Naaman to bathe himself seven times in the River Jordan and he will be healed." *That was not what Naaman wanted to hear!*

Dear me - big trouble! Naaman gets all upset and angry and says, "I could bathe in rivers at home - they're better than here. I thought he would come out and raise his arms to heaven and call on his god and I would be healed." He rode off in a bad temper! Later his servants persuaded him to calm down and do as the Prophet had said - and he did bathe seven times in the Jordan River ... and "his skin became like a young boy's skin." (v.14 TLB)



Wow - Naaman was very happy - and he became a changed man. He also became a believer in the God of Elisha, and asked to speak with the prophet. Elisha came out and they talked a lot.

Naaman offered Elisha the gold and silver - but Elisha refused it. Naaman said: "If it please my Lord may I take as much soil at two mules can carry back to Aram (Syria) so I may stand on 'Holy Ground' (soil from Israel) when I worship the Lord God?" That was OK with Elisha and Naaman added: "May the Lord pardon me this one thing - when my master, the king, goes to the temple of the god Rimmon to worship there and he leans on my arm, may the Lord pardon me when I bow too? 'Go in peace.' Elisha said and Naaman went home.

That's an amazing thing! The now healed Naaman takes 'Holy ground' (soil from Israel) home to Aram (Syria) so he can stand on 'Holy ground' while worshipping and praying ... and is forgiven for bowing down to a stone or gold image of a false god.

Everywhere in the Bible bowing down to idols of stone, wood, gold and other stuff is strictly forbidden. The Lord is full of mercy and loves to please those who truly believe in him!

