

## "True Contentment: In God's Higher Way" May 17th 2020

WARM UP QUESTION (5-10 min): How do you decide on who's wisdom to lean?

**READ: 2 Kings 5:1-14** 

FOCUS: True contentment comes when we acknowledge God's higher way that leads to healing

#### **OBSERVE (10 minutes)**

- 1) **Our Need For Healing:** True contentment flows when we acknowledge our need for healing.
- God allows victories, even for those who don't acknowledge him, for his overarching plans throughout history. (vs 1)
- You can have great pleasure and success in life yet still suffer and be desperately in need of healing. This is Naaman's story.
- Naaman's servant girl had the answer to his physical healing.

"We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly."

Martin Luther King Jr., Why We Can't Wait

- **2) The Challenges To Healing:** We miss true contentment when we resist God's prescription for healing.
- Naaman's physical leprosy paralleled the spiritual leprosy of his soul: pride.
- The road to the cure is humility.
- Naaman responded to the servant girl's advice with action. He traveled to Israel to see the prophet of the God of Israel.
- The prophet did not act as Naaman envisioned. This revealed Naaman's rage and true need: humility.
- God in His mercy helped Naaman along the path to healing by providing others to speak truth to him: the servant girl and his traveling servants who urged

- Naaman to walk in humble obedience.
- Naaman listened to his servants urging and dipped 7 times according to Elisha's word. As a result he was healed.

# **3) Christ Our Healer:** Jesus is God's higher way that leads to healing.

- As Elisha invited Naaman to be healed of leprosy, Christ invites us to be healed of sin and all of sin's effects: body, soul, and spirit. (1 Thes 5:23)
- > Jesus' perfect, sinless life shows us God's higher way to truly living an abundant (fully healed) life.
- Christ's death on the cross was the foolishness that made provision for our forgiveness. (1 Cor 1:20-25)
- Christ's resurrection from the dead made new patterns possible and true contentment available within that reality. (Gal 2:20-21)

#### **REFLECT AND DISCUSS (30 min)**

- God divinely placed the servant girl in Naaman's life to help him find healing. Who has helped you on your journey to healing? Where has God divinely placed YOU to help bring others to healing?
- Do you believe God is willing to physically, emotionally, and spiritually heal you? Why or why not?
- Repentance is turning from pride to humility, from fear to faith, and from rebellion to obedience to accept Christ and His healing. Where are you in this journey?

#### TAKE ACTION

- > Repent of stubborn pride and what the Bible calls sin today.
- In humility, turn to Jesus and His higher wisdom to be healed both now and in the life to come.
- Ask God who He wants you to help take the next step towards healing and salvation in Christ.

### PRAY TOGETHER (10 min)

Heavenly Father, you are perfect and so is your healing in Christ. Your healing leaves no side effects to fear. I trust you today, repenting of unbelief and pride. Please make me clean in body, soul and spirit in Jesus' holy name, amen.

<sup>&</sup>quot;"And a leper came to him, imploring him, and kneeling said to him, "If you will, you can make me clean." Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand and touched him and said to him, "I will; be clean." And immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean." - Mark 1:40-42