



**TRUE**

*Contentment*

By Pastor Rollan Fisher

# “True Contentment: In A Living Faith” May 24th 2020

**WARM UP QUESTION (5-10 min):** How can you tell the difference between a mere inherited religion and a living faith?

**READ:** [2 Kings 5:15-27](#)

**FOCUS:** True contentment is found when we leave dead religion and develop a living faith in Jesus.

## OBSERVE (10 minutes)

- God is a supernatural healer. He uses miraculous encounters throughout history to bring people into relationship with himself, as we've seen many times now.
  - Naaman's response to God's supernatural healing was repentance (meaning a change of mind) and trust in the living God. Naaman now declared “that there is no God in all the earth but in Israel” (vs 15)
  - Naaman's new heart, repentance and faith in the God of Israel led to worship. Naaman tried to offer a gift.
- Elisha refused the gift in order to underscore God's work in Naaman's life as truly God's work and not Elisha's.
  - Naaman said he would no longer offer sacrifices to any god but the Lord, the God of Israel.
  - Naaman asked for the two mule loads of earth to be able to build a mud-brick altar that we see prescribed in Old Testament times. ([Exodus 20:24](#))
  - Naaman asked to be pardoned when he had to go into the house of Rimmon in service of the king of Syria. Rimmon was the storm god also known as Baal-hadad, a false deity worshiped in Syria at that time.

- Elisha said to go in peace which meant that God would be looking at the worship of Naaman's heart and would not be judging Naaman by his environment. [\(John 4:24\)](#)
- Elisha's servant Gehazi was discontent with God's work in Naaman's heart and went after Naaman to collect the offered gifts.
- Gehazi made up a fictitious story to justify a change of heart on Elisha's part and ask for the gifts.
- Naaman freely gave the gift Gehazi asked for.
- Elisha told Gehazi he was there in spirit and knew of Gehazi's acceptance of the gift, displaying God's omniscience.
- Gehazi misused his role as a servant of God to gain wealth for himself. The consequence was outward leprosy symbolizing his inner discontent.

*"God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in him."  
-John Piper*

## REFLECT AND DISCUSS (30 min)

- Naaman went from "inherited religion" to a "living faith". Discuss how this happened in Naaman's life and where you are in this journey.
- Gehazi fell into the Lord's displeasure. Discuss his journey there and how discontentment played a role.
- Like Naaman's return to idol worshipping Syria, do you have a hostile environment in which you need to build an altar?

## PRAY AND TAKE ACTION

- Alter your thoughts
  - Both Naaman and Gehazi needed to repent. So do we. Identify the pursuits outside of Christ that you have depended on to give you happiness. Turn to God who can give everlasting satisfaction instead.
- Build an Altar in our lives
  - Pursue the answers to your questions so that you can transition from a mere inherited religion to a living faith. Like Naaman, begin to build an altar in your home to the one true God who is Jesus Christ. [\(Acts 3:17-21\)](#)