

# A Slave Girl, a Prophet, and a Warrior

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## Intro:

### ➤ → Historical background:

- around 850 B.C., shortly before Elisha initiated the bloody purge of the Omri Dynasty in Israel, in which Elisha anointed Jehu as king and commissioned him the purge the dynasty by killing King Joram and the Queen Mother (Jezebel)
- Assyria awakened and began to move westward, annually visiting countries such as Israel and collecting tribute
  - map
- ● during this time, before taken all of Israel captive, the captain of the Assyrian army took a young Israelite girl captive, made her a slave in his household, serving his wife
- during this time of Israel's history, an event occurred between three people
  - a slave girl, a warrior, and a prophet

### → This lesson:

- **Title:** A slave girl, a warrior, and a prophet
- **Purpose / Convince:** Character (attitudes) study, learn lessons from these 3 people

➤ #1 The slave girl:

→ She didn't lose faith in God, while living through the horrific events of her life (slavery in a foreign land).

- this had to be a very bad part of her life
  - 2 Ki. 5:2
  - taken from her parents, friends, homeland - at an early age
  - all she had to look for was a life as a slave - none of the other things free people look forward to (expound)
- yet, she had great faith in the working of God - power of His prophet
  - conclusion: if she believed God could do a "big" miracle and heal a leper, she knew God could save her from captivity if it was His will
  - cf. Joseph: elevated to governor of Egypt, as being enslaved and imprisoned
    - Bible story which she would have undoubtedly have been taught as a child, like we teach our children today
- application:
  - Do we have as much faith as the slave girl, who was living through atrocities none of us would ever want to experience?
  - If we have as much faith as the Israelite slave-girl, what can we accomplish for our God, living today, in the greatest country to ever exist?

➤ → This little girl proclaimed the *good news* of God, even while enslaved in a foreign land.

- the girl didn't stop sharing her faith with others, even with her master
  - 2 Ki. 5:3

➤ ● example of love your enemies

- little girl was held in slavery by a man, forced to serve his wife
- yet she had compassion for her master, who had leprosy
  - told him how to be healed
- Matt. 5:43-45 love your neighbor, pray for those who persecute you, so you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven
- Rom. 12:14 bless those who persecute you
- Rom. 12:17 never pay back evil for evil to anyone
- Rom. 12:19-21 never take your own revenge, feed enemy, heap burning coals on his head

➤ ● example of life-style evangelism:

- what: she told people about the Lord to the lost, his power
  - she planted a little seed / it fell on a good heart
- how: by having a good heart and caring about people
  - was herself and expressed her feelings toward one who needed help
- result: a person (Naaman) seeking out God, healed, worshiped

→ Summary / Conclusion: We need to have the faith of a little slave girl — trust in God with all our heart, soul, mind strength — in good times and bad

➤ #2 The prophet: Elisha

➔ Elisha was a very great man, possessing even more power than Elijah.

- it seems that he was a counselor to kings, much like Isaiah
  - he was a kingmaker (as commissioned by God), God's instrument of political revolution in Damascus and Israel
- he did many great miracles, even raise the dead (which was very extraordinary in OT times)

➤ ➔ In all of Elisha's greatness, he remained a very humble servant of God.

- Elisha's humility reflected in the story:
  - **2 Ki. 5:8-10** did not go out to the man, did not take the glory of the miracle upon himself

➤ ● **2 Ki. 5:15-16** would not take Naaman's presents

- could have profited greatly with his miraculous power, but he did not

➔ Summary / application:

- No matter how high God raises us up (to do his will), we must remain humble His servants.
  - satisfied to do things God's way - not the way that impresses men
- **Pr. 16:18** pride goes before destruction
  - written by Solomon, great and wealthy man, who stumbled because of pride
- **1 Tim. 3:6** (qualification of elders) not a new convert, so he will not become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil.
- **1 Cor. 1:26-31** God has orchestrated salvation, so that those who are proud and trust in humanistic wisdom will reject Him and Jesus — so that no one boasts except in the Lord

➤ #3 The Assyrian captain: Naaman

→ Naaman believed the truth, spoken by an Israelite slave girl.

- **2 Ki. 5:3-5** Naaman believed, at least enough to investigate whether it was the truth, or not
- ● **Acts 17:10-12** Paul's 2<sup>nd</sup> missionary trip, Berea, received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily, many believed
- **application:** it's our obligation to investigate God's word, to see whether the things we have been taught are true — examine the Scriptures daily to see whether they are true or false
- ● **Rev. 2:3** (Jesus to church at Ephesus) didn't tolerate evil men, put them to the test

➤ → God's word was different than what he expected — Naaman almost rejected the Lord's command, and wouldn't have been healed.

- **2 Ki. 5:9-12** Naaman's grand entrance, Elisha's lowly command, Naaman's reaction "Behold I thought"
- **Naaman almost disobeyed**, lost his chance to be saved from a horrible disease, because he didn't set aside his preconceived expectations and obey
  - **application:** it doesn't matter what we think, all that matters is what God says
  - all that matters is whether we obey or disobey (Heb. 5:9)
  - judgement: "I thought. . ." won't be an excuse
- ● **Naaman came to his senses, helped by his servant, repented** — he obeyed the Lord, saved from his leprosy
  - **2 Ki. 5:13-14** Naaman's servant, common sense, repented (change mind, change action), humility, obeyed, saved from leprosy
  - **application:** we must come to our senses, use some common sense and obey God, turn away from our own preconceived ideas, turn away from the doctrines of men, repent, we'll be saved

➤ → Naaman had to humble himself, to do exactly what God commanded — nothing more or less.

- **Review - 2 Ki. 5:12-14** (read above)
  - **vs. 12** Naaman at least wanted to dip in a clean river, vs. the dirty Jordan
  - **vs. 12** went away in rage — mad at what God commanded him to do
  - **vs. 13** Naaman finally humbled himself and obeyed
    - common sense: would have done something else that was harder
  - **vs. 14** Naaman obeyed, did exactly as God commanded, cleansed of leprosy
- ● **What if. . . ?**
  - What if Naaman had **gone to a different river to dip, than to the Jordan?**
    - **2 Ki. 5:13-14** not obeyed God, he would not have been healed
  - What if Naaman had gone to the Jordan, but **sprinkled water on his head** rather than dip in the water?
    - not obeyed God, not been healed
  - What if Naaman had gone to the Jordan, **stood at the shore, prayed for God to heal him** rather than dip in the water?
    - not obeyed God, not been healed
  - What if Naaman had gone to the Jordan, **done nothing, and believed** he would be healed?
    - not obeyed God, not been healed

- **application:**
  - **negative:**
    - **many people do not obey the Lord today, because its too easy** — Mk. 16:16 (believe, baptized)
      - like Naaman, they want to do something that's hard, that makes them feel like they've really done something, that impressive
    - **many people get mad (like Naaman)**, because God asks them to dip in water to be saved
      - like Naaman, they want to be saved their way, not God's way
        - e.g., just want to believe, not be baptized (Mk. 16:16)
      - they want to be saved without getting wet, head-to- toe, having to dry off and put on dry clothes
    - **like Naaman, many people today want to be saved in a flashy and showy way** — do some kind of miracle, or have a deeply spiritual experience
      - reject the simple commands of the Lord, obey the commands of men
  - **positive:**
    - **like Naaman, some people change their mind, humble themselves to do the foolish things** God asks, are saved
    - **Lk. 4:27** Jesus, there were many lepers in Israel in the time of Elisha the prophet; and none of them was cleansed but only Naaman — **some people will obey today, many more could**

➤ → **Summary / Conclusion / Inv.:**

- We must be like Naaman to be saved. . . .
- God commanded Naaman to dip in the Jordan seven times of be healed
- God commands us to be baptized to be saved
  - **1 Pet. 3:21** Corresponding to that, **baptism now saves you--not** the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience--through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,
- **Inv.:** What has Jesus commanded us to do to be saved — be like Naaman