

# *The Man Who Stooped*

**Series: *“Winds of Change”***

**Message #5: Isaiah 55:6-9; 2 Kings 5:1-14**

**EBC**

**Dr. David McAlpin**

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**Isaiah 55:6–9 (CSB) - *Seek the LORD while he may be found; call to him while he is near. <sup>7</sup>Let the wicked one abandon his way and the sinful one his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, so he may have compassion on him, and to our***

***God, for he will freely forgive.***

***8“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, and your ways are not my ways.” This is the LORD’s declaration. 9“For as heaven is higher than earth, so my ways are higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.”***

# **1. The portrait of Naaman**

**2 Kings 5:1 (CSB) - *Naaman, commander of the army for the king of Aram [Syria], was a man important to his master and highly regarded because through him, the LORD had given victory to Aram. The man was a valiant warrior, but he had a skin disease.***

- **He was a prominent military leader.**

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- **He was respected by the king.**
- **He had a track record of success.**
- **He was a man of courage in battle.**

- **But he was a leper.**  
*(tsara'ath)*

**2. God's string of  
*“it just so  
happened”* events**

***2 Kings 5:2–5a (CSB) -Aram had gone on raids and brought back from the land of Israel a young girl who served Naaman’s wife. <sup>3</sup>She said to her mistress, “If only my master were with the prophet who is in Samaria, he would cure him of his skin disease.”***

***4So Naaman went and told his master what the girl from the land of Israel had said. 5Therefore, the king of Aram said, “Go, and I will send a letter with you to the king of Israel.”***

- **It just so happened a young servant girl from Israel ...**

- **It just so happened a young servant girl from Israel ...**
- **... who just so happened to know of the prophet in Samaria**

- **It just so happened a young servant girl from Israel ...**
- **... who just so happened to know of the prophet in Samaria**
- **... who just so happened to mention it to her mistress**



- **... who just so happened to mention it to her husband**

- ... who just so happened to mention it to her husband
- ... who just so happened to mention it to the king

- ... who just so happened to mention it to her husband
- ... who just so happened to mention it to the king
- ... who just so happened to be willing to write a letter to Israel's king.

# **3. Naaman's misguided search**

**2 Kings 5:5b-12 (CSB) – So he went and took with him 750 pounds of silver, 150 pounds of gold, and ten sets of clothing. <sup>6</sup>He brought the letter to the king of Israel, and it read:**

**When this letter comes to you, note that I have sent you my servant Naaman for you to cure him of his skin disease.**

***7When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and asked, “Am I God, killing and giving life that this man expects me to cure a man of his skin disease? Recognize that he is only picking a fight with me.”***

***8When Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had***

*torn his clothes, he sent a message to the king, “Why have you torn your clothes? Have him come to me, and he will know there is a prophet in Israel.”*<sup>9</sup> So Naaman came with his horses and chariots and stood at the door of Elisha’s house.

***10 Then Elisha sent him a messenger, who said, “Go wash seven times in the Jordan and your skin will be restored and you will be clean.”***

***11 But Naaman got angry and left, saying, “I was telling myself: He will surely come out, stand and call on the name of the LORD his***



***God, and wave his hand over the place and cure the skin disease.  
12Aren't Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Couldn't I wash in them and be clean?" So he turned and left in a rage.***

**Mistake #1: *“I’ll buy my  
cleansing.”***

**(I don’t like the PRICE.)**

**Mistake #2: *“I’ll get cleansing  
from another man.”***

**(I don’t like the PERSON.)**

**Mistake #3: “*This isn’t how I envisioned this.*”**

**(I don’t like the  
PARTICULARS.)**

# 4. Naaman's wise reconsideration

**2 Kings 5:13-14 (CSB) – *But his servants approached and said to him, “My father, if the prophet had told you to do some great thing, would you not have done it? How much more should you do it when he only tells you, ‘Wash and be***

*clean'?'”<sup>14</sup> So Naaman went down and dipped himself in the Jordan seven times, according to the command of the man of God. Then his skin was restored and became like the skin of a small boy, and he was clean.*

- **The compelling logic of his servants: v. 13**



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- **The impressive humility of Naaman: v. 14a**

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- **The miraculous moment: v. 14b**

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2. God often leads us to the truth little by little.

**3. Until we finally jettison all human pride, we'll not be ready to accept God's way of salvation.**

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- 4. Actual obedience is the only pathway to real cleansing.**