

**People of the Promise:  
Naaman's Slave Girl: Witness of a Child  
2 Kings 5**

**Introduction**

*In the harvest field now ripened  
There's a work for all to do  
Hark, the Master's voice is calling  
To the harvest calling you*

*Does the place that you're called to labor  
Seem so small and little known?  
It is great if God is in it  
For he will not forget his own*

*And when the conflict here has ended  
And our race on earth is run  
He will say, if you've been faithful  
"Welcome home, my child, well done"*

*Little is much when God is in it  
Labor not for wealth or fame  
There's a crown, and you can win it  
If you go in Jesus' name*

Last Time: Elisha, Double Portion  
Elisha—"My God is salvation."

2 Kings 5

<sup>1</sup> Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Syria, was a great man with his master and in high favor, because by him

the LORD had given victory to Syria. He was a mighty man of valor, but he was a leper.

<sup>2</sup> Now the Syrians on one of their raids had carried off a little girl from the land of Israel, and she worked in the service of Naaman's wife. <sup>3</sup> She said to her mistress, "Would that my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy."

<sup>4</sup> So Naaman went in and told his lord, "Thus and so spoke the girl from the land of Israel."

<sup>5</sup> And the king of Syria said, "Go now, and I will send a letter to the king of Israel." So he went, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten changes of clothing. <sup>6</sup> And he brought the letter to the king of Israel, which read, "When this letter reaches you, know that I have sent to you Naaman my servant, that you may cure him of his leprosy." <sup>7</sup> And when the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to kill and to make alive, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? Only consider, and see how he is seeking a quarrel with me." <sup>8</sup> But when

Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent to the king, saying, "Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come now to me, that he may know that 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. <sup>10</sup> And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go and wash in the Jordan seven

times, and your flesh shall be restored, and you shall be clean." <sup>11</sup> But Naaman was angry and went away, saying, "Behold, I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call upon the name of the LORD his God, and wave his hand over the place and cure the leper. <sup>12</sup> Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?" So he turned and went away in a rage. <sup>13</sup> But his servants came near and said to him, "My father, it is a great word the prophet has spoken to you; will you not do it? Has he actually said to you, 'Wash, and be clean'?" <sup>14</sup> So he went down and dipped himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God, and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.

<sup>15</sup> Then he returned to the man of God, he and all his company, and he came and stood before him. And he said, "Behold, I know that there is no God in all the earth but in Israel; so accept now a present from your servant." <sup>16</sup> But he said, "As the LORD lives, before whom I stand, I will receive none." And he urged him to take it, but he refused. <sup>17</sup> Then Naaman said, "If not, please let there be given to your servant two mule loads of earth, for from now on your servant will not offer burnt offering or sacrifice to any god but the LORD. <sup>18</sup> In this matter may the LORD pardon your servant: when my master goes

into the house of Rimmon to worship there, leaning on my arm, and I bow myself in the house of Rimmon, when I bow myself in the house of Rimmon, the LORD pardon your servant in this matter." <sup>19</sup> He said to him, "Go in peace." But when Naaman had gone from him a short distance, <sup>20</sup> Gehazi, the servant of Elisha the man of God, said, "See, my master has spared this Naaman the Syrian, in not accepting from his hand what he brought. As the LORD lives, I will run after him and get something from him." <sup>21</sup> So Gehazi followed Naaman. And when Naaman saw someone running after him, he got down from the chariot to meet him and said, "Is all well?" <sup>22</sup> And he said, "All is well. My master has sent me to say, 'There have just now come to me from the hill country of Ephraim two young men of the sons of the prophets. Please give them a talent of silver and two changes of clothing.'" <sup>23</sup> And Naaman said, "Be pleased to accept two talents." And he urged him and tied up two talents of silver in two bags, with two changes of clothing, and laid them on two of his servants. And they carried them before Gehazi. <sup>24</sup> And when he came to the hill, he took them from their hand and put them in the house, and he sent the men away, and they departed. <sup>25</sup> He went in and stood before his master, and Elisha said to him, "Where have you been, Gehazi?" And he said, "Your servant went nowhere." <sup>26</sup> But he said to him, "Did not my heart go

when the man turned from his chariot to meet you? Was it a time to accept money and garments, olive orchards and vineyards, sheep and oxen, male servants and female servants? <sup>27</sup> Therefore the leprosy of Naaman shall cling to you and to your descendants forever." So he went out from his presence a leper, like snow.

Quite a cast of characters in this beautiful account—

Naaman—a mighty man of valor, but a leper  
 Servant girl—captive from Israel, serving a Syrian household

King of Syria—sent letter to King of Israel

King of Israel—man of politics, not faith

Elisha—prophet of God, unimpressed by human greatness

Gehazi—servant of Elisha

### **Servant Girl**

The one who is in the weakest position of all turns out to be the key character on which the entire story depends. Her resolute faith, unusual compassion, and bold courage is in stark contrast to other characters. You would think she would have been so traumatized by being ripped away from her family and homeland that her faith would have faltered and died. But no. She still believes in Yahweh and in His power as manifest through the prophet Elisha. Almost as extraordinary is her compassion for her mistress and her master,

who suffers from leprosy. She does not gloat that her captors suffer this way. She seeks to serve their needs and to point them to the God who can provide deliverance. Ironically, she is less of a slave than Naaman is. She shows the courage to testify to God's power through Elisha and her confidence that Naaman can be healed. What would make her think Naaman wouldn't scoff at the idea? No matter, she bore witness anyway.

Whatever station of life we find ourselves in, even tragic circumstances, away from home, loss of freedom, serving captors, does not strip away from us our purpose for being on the planet as believers. We can witness from a prison. We can serve our enemies for the glory of God. We can make a difference that changes the very course of history. Most of us live in a time and place of peace and relative security. We are used to comfortable lives. But we still must deal with disease, suffering, defeats, death. And there is no guarantee that we will always enjoy what we have today. No matter. If we belong to Christ, our purpose and the power to fulfill it remain in whatever state we are.

**Naaman** is mighty and great, but his leprosy is a problem he cannot overcome. Elisha's command delivered by a servant with no fanfare angers him. He is used to doing hard things successfully. He is used to the pomp

and fanfare of royal favor. He thinks he has better ideas about how his rescue should be done. Classic manmade religion. Only problem—it doesn't work. Thankfully, his servants persuade him to do what Elisha has directed, even though it seems too easy and too humiliating. When Yahweh heals him, he is very grateful and generous. He is also sensitive to the difficult conflict of interest he will encounter in his service to the King of Syria when the king worships his idol. His conscience seeks to find a way to stay true to Yahweh even in his difficult work environment.

**The King of Israel** is the most powerful man in the country, but he is fearful and alarmed by the King of Syria's request. He has no faith in God, and no solution for Naaman's need. Many live their entire lives blind to spiritual realities and the power of God. It is a life of fear and manipulation. Everything hangs on his own performance. That's a fearful place to be. Because no one can do everything that needs to be done.

**Elisha** is unimpressed by Naaman's great standing and does not cater to Naaman's pride. Captain Naaman must humble himself by yield to whatever God says and does if he wants to be healed. Elisha also confronts Gehazi with the servant's foolish choices to steal and to lie for personal advantage. This

isn't the time to acquire wealth and station. It's time to serve the Lord in a way that is true to God's character. Elisha had a powerful ministry, but it's clear that it wasn't about himself. It was about Yahweh. My God is salvation. Nothing else. No one else. That's why he refuses Naaman's gifts.

**Gehazi** seems to resent the Syrians more than the little girl taken captive does. He thinks Naaman has gotten off too cheaply and decides to cash in on this new believer's sincere desire to honor Yahweh. Gehazi's greed leads him to lie to Naaman and to Elisha. Does He think Elisha's God is deaf and blind? He misrepresents Yahweh by indicating that what Yahweh has done for Naaman must be paid for rather than it's being a gift of grace. He is judged by receiving Naaman's leprosy.

How often those most familiar with the Biblical faith and closest to the work of God have the least appreciation for it and hunger for worldly advantage. It's one of the best ways you can ruin your life.

## **Yahweh**

Clearly sovereign over the whole story. He gave Naaman his victories, which resulted in his bringing this little girl from Israel into his home. He was the reason the little girl had such faith. He was the reason she had such a



huge impact on Naaman and everyone connected to him. He heals Naaman. Nothing else can account for it. He gives Elisha supernatural vision into Gehazi's dishonest tactics with Naaman. He strikes Gehazi with leprosy.

## **Conclusion**

Naaman

Servant girl

King of Syria

King of Israel

Elisha

Gehazi

## **Which character is most like you?**

King of Syria, King of Israel, Gehazi—worldly mindset with no confidence in God

Elisha, servant girl→Naaman—by the end of the story all believers trusting in the God who is salvation. He is the true Hero. If He's your Hero, there's no place you can be where you can't serve Him and end up making a big difference.