

MY POINT OF REBELLION

2 KINGS 5:9-12 • TV127A

A television broadcast sermon delivered
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21ST, 1980

By
HENRY T. MAHAN

Transcribed, edited and published
MAY 15TH, 2015

HENRY T. MAHAN TAPE LIBRARY
Zebulon Baptist Church
6088 Zebulon Highway
Pikeville, KY 41501

2 Kings 5:9-12

“So Naaman came with his horses and with his chariot, and stood at the door of the house of Elisha. And Elisha sent a messenger unto him, saying, Go and wash in Jordan seven times, and thy flesh shall come again to thee, and thou shalt be clean. But Naaman was wroth, and went away, and said, Behold, I thought, He will surely come out to me, and stand, and call on the name of the LORD his God, and strike his hand over the place, and recover the leper. Are not Abana and Pharpar, rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? May I not wash in them, and be clean? So he turned and went away in a rage.”

I want you to open your Bible today to the book of **2 Kings**. We are going to be reading from **2 Kings, the 5th chapter** and I will read **verses 9 through 12**.

I will be speaking to you in a few moments on the subject: **“MY POINT OF REBELLION.”** Now, let’s read from **2 Kings the 5th Chapter beginning with verse 9:** *“So Naaman came with his horses and with his chariots and he stood at the door of the prophet Elisha.”*

Now, every word is significant: *“Naaman came (with his gold and silver and horses and chariots) and he stood at the door of the prophet Elisha. Elisha sent a messenger unto him saying: go and wash in the river Jordan seven times and thy flesh shall come again unto thee and thou shalt be clean.”*

But Naaman was angry and he went away. He said: *“Behold; I thought, he would surely come out to me and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God and strike his hand over the place and recover my leprosy: Are not Abana and Pharpar rivers of Damascus better than all the rivers of Israel? May I not wash in them and be clean?”* So, he turned away and left in a rage.

My friend; Naaman, the man about whom we have just read was a great man. He was somebody. Naaman was somebody in Syria.

First of all: He was the captain of the king’s army.

Secondly: He was a successful soldier.

He was a man who was popular with the king, famous in the eyes of the people and very wealthy. The Scripture says, *“He was a man of great honor; he was an honorable man, and he was a bold, courageous man, but he was a leper.”* Naaman was a dying man.

Now Syria had made war on Israel, Naaman and the country of Syria, and they had gone down into Israel and taken spoil and had taken many captives. One of the captives which they had taken from Israel was a young girl who served in Naaman’s household. She was a servant to Naaman’s wife.

Knowing her masters sickness, knowing that he was a leper; one day the little Israelite girl said to her mistress: *“if my master Naaman was in Israel he could go to the prophet of God Elisha and he would be healed.”*

She knew about this disease and she knew that God was able to heal. She knew that the prophet of God could heal Naaman. So, Naaman came to see Elisha.

Naaman came to see the prophet of God but he came bringing his gold and silver and many changes of raiment. He believed that he could purchase healing. We see in this great processional all of his horses and chariots and his gold and his silver and all these changes of raiment.

And the proud captain of the host of Syria came to the humble dwelling of the prophet of God, Elisha, and he stood outside and sent for Elisha to come to him. The prophet of God did not come out.

The prophet of God did not appear but rather he sent a servant to say to Naaman: *“Naaman; go wash in the river Jordan and your flesh will come again to you and you shall be clean.”*

First of all: Naaman was so angry; how angry he was; he was angry at the suggestion that he take off his clothes and humble himself.

He was angry because the prophet of God did not come out to him and show unto him special attention. He was angry because the prophet of God did not recognize his gifts of gold and silver and treated them with contempt.

The prophet of God was not interested in what he had to give and he was angry because the prophet told him to wash in that despised, muddy, River Jordan.

He said: *“I thought he would come to me. I thought he would strike his hand over my leprosy and call on his God (say a few words of mumbo-jumbo) and my leprosy would disappear.”* So, he went away in a rage.

Now, two burning questions come forth from this Scripture:

First of all: Can the River Jordan heal leprosy?

The answer is: absolutely not. If that river could have healed leprosy; they would have been lined up and down the bank. Naaman would have had a hard time getting down to the river. The river would have been full of lepers, but the River Jordan had no power whatsoever in it to wash away leprosy.

Second: Could Naaman be healed without going down into the Jordan River?

And the answer to that question is absolutely not. The prophet of God said: *“Would you be made whole? Would you be healed? Go to the River Jordan and dip seven times.”*

We know that he did. He took off his clothes and he humbled himself and the Scripture says: *“he went down into the river and he came forth as clean and pure and without that disease as when he was born as a child.”*

Now, could the River Jordan, could the waters of that river put away the disease of leprosy? No sir! Could Naaman be healed without going down into those waters? No sir! Then, what have we here? What is this Scripture teaching us?

I will tell you what the Scripture is teaching us; it is teaching us that God almighty is breaking the proud human heart. God is bringing the proud sinner down.

Naaman had contempt for Israel. Naaman had contempt for Israel’s God. Naaman had contempt for Israel’s rivers and Naaman had contempt for Israel’s prophets.

Naaman had nothing but contempt for Israel, the people of God, and his human thought and human pride had to be destroyed before God almighty because *“pride goeth before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall.”*

Listen to the Scripture in **Proverbs 6:16**: *“There are six things that the Lord hates, six things.”* That ought to catch your attention. That ought to make everybody prick up their ears and listen carefully.

Do you mean there are six things that God hates? What’s number one? Would you want to guess? What’s number one?

First of all: It’s a proud look!

There are six things that God hates: one is a proud look. Look at **James 4:6**: *“God resisteth the proud; he gives grace to the humble.”* Listen to **Obadiah chapter 3:4**: *“The pride of your heart hath deceived you: You that saith in your heart: who shall bring me down? Though you exalt yourself as an eagle; I will bring you down, saith the Lord, I will bring you down.”*

My friend; what I am saying is this: before a man will ever be an object of mercy, God will bring him down. Before God ever gives grace and mercy and forgiveness to a sinner, he will bring him down. Before God ever saves and pardons and justifies and cleanses the sinner, he will bring him down.

Naaman was proud. He was arrogant. He was self-sufficient. He was self-righteous. He was a rebel who had to be broken and you and I are made out of the same material and we are dug out of the same pit. We are possessors of the same flesh; we are going to have to be broken before God in humility and contrition.

God met Naaman at his point of rebellion. His point of rebellion was pride. His point of rebellion was a haughty spirit, a proud spirit. Can’t you just see this man in all of his splendor and glory and in his uniforms and medals as he comes with his gold and silver and horses and chariots?

And he stands proudly before the humble prophet of God, in his haughty spirit, waiting on God to come to him, waiting on God’s servants to minister to him, waiting to buy his way into the favor of God.

First of all: And the servant of God, Elisha; he showed contempt for Naaman’s gold and silver by not even coming out to meet him; he sent a servant out to see him.

And he said to him: *“Thus saith the Lord; go wash in the River Jordan and you will be clean.”* Naaman stomped around in anger and wrath and said *“I will not; I will not!”*

Let me ask you some questions: did all lepers have to wash in the Jordan River to be healed; did all of them? The answer is no, no they did not. But Naaman did. He would have never been healed.

MY POINT OF REBELLION

2 KINGS 5:9-12 • HENRY T. MAHAN

There was no way for him to be healed without doing what God said, without following that humble course that the prophet of God laid down. He could not be healed because that was the point of his rebellion. That's where God met him. That's where he had to be dealt with. That's where he had to be broken.

God will meet every proud sinner at his point of rebellion and he will deal with him until he surrenders. He will deal with him.

But you know; Naaman's servant gave him some good advice. He said: *"My master, if the prophet would have told you something hard to do you, you would have done it, would you?"* He said: *"Why certainly."* He said, *"Well, why not do what he did tell you to do?"*

You see, that's our pride. God crosses our proud will. He's going to break it. Two wills cannot exist, God's will and your will. One has got to be broken and you can't break God's will.

"He doeth according to his will in the army of heaven and among the inhabitants of this earth. He worketh all things after the council of his own will." He's going to break your will or he will send you to hell.

Let me ask you another question; now listen, think a little bit: did all rich men have to sell their goods and give them to the poor to be saved? Well, the answer is no!

Abraham was a wealthy man and David was a wealthy man and Solomon was a wealthy man and Joseph of Arimathea was a wealthy man. All wealthy men did not have to sell all their goods and give them to the poor.

But the rich, young ruler did because that was his point of rebellion. That's where our Lord met him. That's where our Lord Jesus dealt with him. He said: *"You love your riches, you love your luxuries, and you love all of your possessions. You go sell it and take up your cross and follow me."* And that's where God met him, but he wouldn't be broken. He turned and walked away, sorrowful, but he walked away.

It doesn't matter how you walk away, sorrowful, happy, rebellious, cursing or whatever; the bad part is walking away. God will meet you where you are. He knows your point of rebellion. He knows where your pride lives. He knows where your love is.

He knows where your affection is and that is where God will meet you and that's where he will deal with you. He doesn't deal with everybody just alike. This massive evangelism, mass psychology, massive aisle walking and everybody doing the same thing and saying the same words is foolishness because we are different; we are different people and different personalities.

And God deals with us differently. He didn't have the rich, young, ruler dip in the River Jordan but Naaman had to. And he didn't have Naaman sell his possessions and give them to the poor. In fact, when Naaman offered these possessions to Elisha he turned them down.

I'll ask you another question: did all men have to be baptized of John in the River Jordan to be saved? No sir, but the Pharisees did. That's right! You read it in your Bible. The Pharisees, it says: *"they rejected the council of God within them and would not be baptized of John in the River Jordan."*

They wouldn't do it. They would not bend and bow and submit to the baptism of repentance. They would not go down; they would not admit they were sinners. They would not admit they needed a Redeemer.

They would not admit that they needed to be baptized in a baptism of repentance and faith. This is the thing; they would never be saved until they do, never! They rejected and resisted and despised the baptism of John.

Let me ask you another question: did all men have to put away their wives of a second marriage in order to be saved? No sir, not at all.

But Herod did. There was no way that Herod could know God and come unto the mercies of God until he did what John told him.

John the Baptist said: *"Herod."* He came to hear John the Baptist. He was a regular attender at the services of John the Baptist and John the Baptist just leveled his finger at him one day and said: *"it's not lawful for you to have your brother's wife; you better do something about it."*

That's when trouble began; He hit his point of rebellion. He hit his point of pride; He hit his point of resistance. God will break the proud heart, mine, yours, or anybody else's. He will deal with us at that point where pride reigns and where we insist on having our own way.

Now listen to the Bible in **Psalm 34:18**: *"The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart and saveth such as thee of a contrite spirit."* Do you hear those two words, *"broken and contrite?"* *"God is nigh unto them of a broken heart and a contrite spirit."*

God will break a man because, you see, we are not going to fall on our knees and fall at His feet and worship in repentance and adoration until we are broken. Pride has got to go!

That's the reason the Lord treated Saul of Tarsus like He did. Saul, riding his proud, white horse, on his way to Damascus to kill Christians, in all of his arrogance and haughtiness and God brought him to his end.

God made him bite the dust. God humbled him and blinded him and had that proud Pharisee led away by the hand of an ordinary Roman soldier.

Listen to **Psalm 51:17**: *"The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart oh God thou wilt not despise."*

MY POINT OF REBELLION

2 KINGS 5:9-12 • HENRY T. MAHAN

Now, preachers can go up and down this country preaching that you are supposed to be satisfied with yourself and think a lot of yourself and praise yourself but that's not what God's Word says. God's Word says that *"we are to have a broken heart and a contrite spirit."*

God's Word says that *"we are to have a humble spirit."* God's Word says, *"that we are not to look upon our own things but the things of another."* God's Word tells us that a man that is truly convicted of sin will grieve over sin and mourn over sin and weep over sin and look to God for His mercy.

So Naaman, proud, arrogant, full of ego; he finally went down. That is what the Scripture says: *"Then went he down."* That's the four most beautiful words that can be uttered: *"then went he down."* I'll tell you: when a man goes down he's going to come up.

He's not going to be exalted until he's abased. He's not going to be lifted up until he's brought down. At the command of God Naaman was stripped, he was broken, he was humbled, and he did exactly what he said he would never do; he went down into the River Jordan.

Now, it wasn't the water of the river; this is what so many people mistake the means for the end. The waters of Jordan had no power to put away his leprosy. But God could do it and God will only deal with a man when he breaks him.

I don't know what your point of rebellion is. I don't know the place where your pride reigns, where your will resists the will of God. Perhaps you know, perhaps you don't know, but God knows, God knows!

And God will reveal it to you and there God will deal with you. He will deal with you and he will deal with me because we must be obedient to His will.

We've got to bend, we've got to break, we've got to bow, and we've got to submit and we've got to surrender, unconditionally surrender. We've got to stack our arms and haul down our flags and turn our swords around and hand them to God handle first.

I want to ask you some questions and I want you to listen to me a little while and let's just visit a little bit on this point of rebellion!

Now, we've seen this picture. This is what this is saying; this is the reason so much space is given in the Word of God to Naaman. God is dealing with Naaman but this is an example to you and me.

God met Naaman at his point of rebellion. God healed him. God cleansed him but he came God's way and he came in humility. He came in submission with a *"broken heart and a contrite spirit"*

Let me ask you some questions:

First: Can a man be saved and not understand the truth of divine sovereignty and covenant and elective grace? Can a man be saved and not believe in divine sovereignty and not have understanding in election?

Absolutely! You see, my friend; salvation is not in a doctrine, it's in a person. It is not faith in sovereignty that saves or faith in a covenant that saves or faith in election that saves but it's faith in Christ alone.

The Bible says: *“This is the record that God hath given us eternal life and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life. He that hath not the Son of God hath not life. God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life.”*

You don't arrive at Christ through doctrine; you arrive at doctrine through Christ. You come to know Christ and then you learn the doctrine.

But, the question is this; can a man or woman not understand divine sovereignty and not understand elective grace, and still be saved? Yes sir, but if divine sovereignty becomes an issue and elective grace becomes an issue with you and you read it in God's Word and every one of you know that the Bible is full of God's sovereignty and God's elective grace.

In fact; old Nebuchadnezzar bragged on his power and his strength. He said: *“Is not this great Babylon that my hands have built?”* God said: *“you will be driven from men and you will dwell with the beasts of the field and you will eat grass like an ox until you know that the most high God rules in the kingdom of men and giveth it to whom he will.”*

He sent him out to eat grass like an ox and like a beast for months (or years, however long it was) until he understood that God reigns.

You will have to believe it too because it is God's Word. If this becomes an issue with you, if you read in the Bible where it says, God is on the throne in creation, providence, and salvation, that God elected a people and gave them to Christ and then a man says: “I won't have it.” and that's when it becomes an issue; is when God's will meets your will and your will won't bend to God's will and that's when you will bow. You are going to receive the Word just like it is.

Secondly: Can a man be saved and not understand the doctrine of original sin, the Baptist's the Lutheran's, the Presbyterian's, and the Episcopal; all were built on this doctrine.

All of these prominent evangelical denominations have it in their Articles of Faith and in their Confessions of Faith. It's there, the original sin and Adam's fall. But, can a man be saved and not understand this and not enter into it? Yes sir, absolutely!

“My sins are ever before me,” David said. I'm not under the condemnation of God for Adam's sin; I'm under the condemnation of God for my sin. Adam's sin is where it started. Adam's sin

is the source of it. Adam's sin is the mouth of the river but I'm guilty and I'm accountable and responsible for my own sin.

What did the thief on the cross know about original sin? What did he know about Adam's fall? He just knew he was a sinner. He said: *"I'm getting what I deserve and I would like to have mercy. Lord, I would like for you to remember me when you come into your kingdom."*

What did the Publican know about original sin? He smote on his breast and cried: *"God be merciful to me the sinner, (not Adam the sinner) me the sinner."*

But, let me tell you this: if a man becomes proud or puffed up in his free will and puffed up in his self-righteousness and puffed up in his own merit, God almighty will break him or He won't save him.

He will just do it where the nature of sin reigns and the principle of sin within. You are going to realize that it was God that saved you and its God that loved you. Listen, *"Who maketh thee to differ? What do you have that you did not receive?"*

Listen to the Scripture: *"You were dead in trespasses and sin but God who is rich in mercy quickened you with Christ."* Our Lord Jesus Christ said, *"No man can come to me except my Father which sent me draw him."*

Here's what I am saying; a man can be saved and not understand some of these great old bed-rock foundation and fundamental doctrines. When he learns them and when he encounters them, when the Holy Spirit brings them to his attention, if he's God's child, if his heart has been sufficiently broken, he will say: *"let God be true and every man a liar."* "What God says I believe."

Can a man be saved and not be baptized? Why, absolutely! Water cannot wash sin away. Water cannot put away guilt. It's the blood of Christ that cleanses. *"The blood of Christ cleanseth us from all sin,"* the blood of Christ atones, and the blood of Christ pardons, the blood of Christ puts away guilt.

We have an example in the Word of God of a man who never washed, who never worked, who never walked and that was the thief on the cross. But, we can say this too; if the commandment to follow our Lord in baptism becomes a point of rebellion God will break you just like He did Naaman or God will damn you.

Now, you can just rest assure of that; it's the Holy Spirit that convicts us. You see, this thing of salvation is a heart work; it's a work in the will, it is God's will. *"It's not of him that willeth or of him that runneth but it's of God that showeth mercy."*

God is going to meet us and conquer us and bring us submissively and humbly to Christ or He will have to judge us. **Acts 2:38** says: *"Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ for the remission of sins."*

In **Acts 22:15 and 16** Paul was told by Ananias *“to arise and be baptized and wash away your sins.”* Our Lord sent His disciples out and He said: *“Preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved.”*

Now, you make an issue out of a commandment of Christ, if you make an issue of pointing at God’s Word, you reveal one thing, you are still a rebel.

You see, Naaman came to the prophet of God with a need and he was going to dictate the terms on which he would accept forgiveness or cleansing. He came to the prophet of God with a hand full of gold and he was going to purchase the favor of God.

My friend; we come to God empty, stripped, and broken without one thing to pay:

**“In my hands no price I bring
Simply to the cross of Christ I cling.”**

The grace of God is a gift. The mercy of God is just that, mercy. So, who am I to dictate the terms and conditions of God’s covenant?

What I am saying is that you may not have to be baptized, you may not have to have these different things or knowledge of different doctrines, but when you meet them and when they are presented to you from God’s Word, it’s exactly why rebels resist and believers bow. That’s just the way it is. Rebels resist and believer’s bow.

Let me ask you a few other questions:

Can a man be saved and not be affiliated with a local church and identify with the people of God in his area? I’m sure of it, but remember, our Lord has no secret disciples. He said: *“If you are ashamed of me I will be ashamed of you,”* ashamed of Christ, of His church, of His ordinance, or of His people?

Fear of public opinion is absence of faith every time. Can a woman be saved and not submit to the authority of her husband? She can until she learns God’s will about it. Can a person be saved and not love other people? He can until he learns God’s will about it.

Can a person be saved and not forgive someone else? Can a person be saved and not give? He can as long as he’s a babe in Christ and doesn’t meet this particular issue in God’s Word.

But, when you meet the issue: *“My sheep hear my voice and they follow me,”* my point of rebellion!