

Theme: Those who are “strangers” and are far away from the promises of God, when they humble themselves before Him, receive His grace and are brought near to Him. But those who are “sons” and near to those promises, and yet spurn that grace, are driven away from Him.

Background: A Gentile’s conversion is at the center of Chps 2-8 in the ministry of Elisha.

Introduction: The passage reveals very different expectations of people concerning the power and grace of God.

I. A Test of Faith (1-14) Where has each person put their trust?

A. Naaman

1. A “Great Man” AND
2. A leper!
- not necessarily what we think of as leprosy – but a skin disease

B. A little girl - a young Israelite

- A captive, torn from her home and family
- Secure in her faith and trust
- Bold in her witness

THEOLOGICAL NOTE: The most shocking thing in this opening? In 2 verses:

1. God’s absolute sovereignty is affirmed over nations and armies ;) AND
2. Over individual, personal circumstances!

C. Israel’s king?

1. Syrian king’s request – heal him!
2. Israel’s faithless king
- He does not worship the God of Elisha
3. Fear!!

Contrast of Expectations: QUESTION: Who are you usually like?

1. A faithful little servant girl
2. A faithless king

D. Elisha

1. Send him to me – There is a prophet in Israel! (v.8)
2. Naaman’s expectation??
- *Show him respect!! Deference.*
3. A “cold” welcome
- **Naaman must be humbled before the Lord.**
- **He is treated like a leper who needs to be healed! Because he is!**
4. Unwelcome instructions (v.10ff)
 - a. Naaman is offended. Why the Jordan River?
NOTE: The Gospel is, to many, offensive and exclusive.
 - b. Servants focus on the *words* of the prophet. “Wash, and be clean!”

5. God heals Naaman

- According to the word of the prophet of God.

II. A True Conversion – Center of the passage, center of the ministry of Elisha.
God is calling the Gentiles to Himself! (Eph.3:6)

A. Only one true God in all the Earth

1. His testimony! (Read v.15)
2. His resolve
3. His active *conscience*

B. Message to Israel

- Where is their testimony? Resolve? Tender Conscience?
- Jesus interprets this message. Luke 4; Luke 17:11-18

God is calling the gentiles & turning away from Israel! Jews in Nazareth got it!

C. Naaman's gift? (v.16)

1. The grace of God is a free gift.
2. The "gift of God" is eternal life.

III. A Terrible Deception (19b-27)

A. Gehazi's blasphemy! (v.20)

B. Full of lies!

1. Lying to
2. Lying about Elisha
3. Lying to himself?

C. **Lying about God!**

- **This is another gospel!**
- **This is "grace and..."** (Galatians 1:8,9)

D. The dreadful consequences

- Complete reversal Naaman's *leprosy* comes upon him. He would be unclean.

E. A Stark Contrast

- Naaman, v.1 - a foreign leper Cleansed and converted
- Gehazi, v.27 – A native Israelite Unclean and rejected

IV. A Time to Question

1. Do you see yourself as leper? Needing his cleansing, restoring, renewing grace??
2. Do you see evidence of God's grace at work in you?
3. Where do you tend to make the good news "grace and..."?
4. What kind of faith do I have?
 - Like that of the little servant girl?
 - Or more like Israel's King?
5. Having been "grafted in" to Christ, the vine, will you worship Him alone "in Spirit and in Truth"?