

## **Lesson 55**

### **Naaman is Cleansed**

#### **Opening Prayer:**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Dear Lord, teach us to be content with the blessings You have given us. Remind us that everything we have is a gift from You and we should cherish it as a gift of love.

In Jesus name. Amen.

#### **Memory Work:**

##### **Bible: 2 Kings 5:16-17**

Elisha said, “As the Lord lives, before whom I stand, I will receive none.” And he urged him to take it, but he refused. 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.

#### **Catechism:**

##### **The Ninth Commandment**

You shall not covet your neighbor’s house.

*What does this mean?*

We should fear and love God so that we do not scheme to get our neighbor’s inheritance or house, or get it in a way which only appears right, but help and be of service to him in keeping it.

##### **The Tenth Commandment**

You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

*What does this mean?*

We should fear and love God so that we do not entice or force away our neighbor’s wife, workers, or animals, or turn them against him, but urge them to stay and do their duty.

#### **Focus:**

Coveting, or wanting something that belongs to someone else, is seeing God’s blessings to us as insufficient or inadequate. It is an insult to God who has saved you and loves you. Coveting brings with it the danger of breaking other commandments like lying and stealing.

**Lesson: 2 Kings 5:1-27**

Naaman {NAY-ah-man}, the commander of the Aramean {ar-ah-MEE-an} king's army, was respected and highly honored by his master. The LORD had given Aram a victory through Naaman. This man was a good soldier, but he had a skin disease.



Once, when the Arameans went on raids, they had brought back a little girl from Israel. She became the servant of Naaman's wife. The girl told her mistress, "If only my master were with the prophet in Samaria. Then the prophet could cure him of his skin disease."



Naaman went to his master and told him what the girl from Israel had said.

The king of Aram said, "You may go. I will also send a letter to the king of Israel."

When Naaman left, he took 750 pounds of silver, 150 pounds of gold, and 10 sets of clothing with him. He brought the letter to the king of Israel. It read, "I'm sending my officer Naaman with this letter. Cure him of his skin disease."

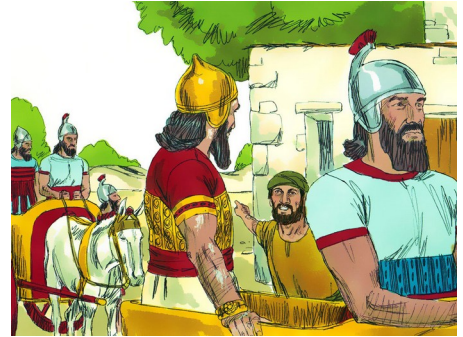
When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes in distress. He asked, "Am I God? Can I kill someone and then bring him back to life? This man sends someone to me so that I can cure his skin disease! All of you should realize and understand that he is trying to pick a fight with me."



When Elisha, the man of God, heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent a messenger to the king. He asked, "Why did you tear your clothes? Please let Naaman come to me and find out that there is a prophet in Israel."



Naaman came with his horses and chariot and stopped at the entrance to Elisha's home. Elisha sent a messenger to him. He said, "Wash yourself seven times in the Jordan River, and your skin will be healthy and clean."



Naaman became angry and left. He said, "I thought he would at least come out of his house, stand somewhere, call on the name of the LORD his God, wave his hand over the infected place, and heal the skin disease. The Abana and Pharpar {*FAR-par*} rivers in Damascus have better water than any of the rivers in Israel. Couldn't I wash in them and be clean?" So he turned around and left in anger.



But Naaman's servants went to him and said, "Master, if the prophet had asked you to do some extraordinary act, wouldn't you have done it? Why shouldn't you do as he said: 'Wash and be clean'?"



So he went to dip himself in the Jordan River seven times, as the man of God had instructed him.



His skin became healthy again like a little child's skin.



Then he and all his men returned to the man of God. Naaman stood in front of Elisha and said, "Now I know that there's no god in the whole world, except the God of Israel. So please accept a present from me."

Elisha said, "I solemnly swear, as the LORD whom I serve lives, I will not accept it." Naaman urged him to take it, but he refused.



So Naaman said, “If you won’t take it, please have someone give me as much dirt as a pair of mules can carry. From now on I will sacrifice to the LORD alone. I will not offer any burnt offering or sacrifice to any other gods. ...

Elisha told Naaman, “Go in peace.”

After Elisha had left him and gone some distance, Gehazi {geh-HA-zee}, the servant of Elisha the prophet, thought, “My master let Naaman go without accepting what he had brought. As sure as the LORD lives, I will run after Naaman and get something from him.” So Gehazi went after Naaman.



When Naaman saw Gehazi running after him, he got down from his chariot to speak to him. “Is something wrong?” he asked.

Gehazi answered, “No. My master has sent me. He says, ‘Just now two young men from the disciples of the prophets in the hills of Ephraim have arrived. Please give them 75 pounds of silver and two sets of clothing.’ ”

Naaman replied, “Please let me give you 150 pounds of silver.” Naaman urged him to take the silver. Naaman tied up 150 pounds of silver in two bags with two sets of clothing. He gave them to a couple of his own servants to carry in front of Gehazi.

When Gehazi came to the Ophel {OH-fell} in Samaria, he took these things and put them away in the house. Then he dismissed the men, and they left. He went and stood in front of his master.

Elisha asked him, “Where were you, Gehazi?”

“I didn’t go anywhere,” he answered.

Then Elisha said to him, “I went with you in spirit when the man turned around in his chariot to speak to you. How could you accept [those gifts]? Naaman’s skin disease will cling to you and your descendants forever!”

When he left Elisha, Gehazi had a disease that made his skin as flaky as snow.





**Review:**

Do you remember the name of the General? Naaman

What problem did he have? He had a skin disease called leprosy

Who told him how to be cured? A little girl from Israel who was a slave for his wife

When Naaman heard he could be healed what did he do? Went to his king asking to go

What did his king do for him? Wrote letter to the king of Israel

When the king of Israel heard Naaman's request what did he do? Tore his robe in anger and fear

When Elisha heard of it what did he say to the king? Send Naaman to me

What did Elisha tell Naaman to do? Dip in the Jordan River seven times

What did Naaman think about that? He was angry. He said the rivers at his home were better.

What did Naaman's servant say? You would have done a difficult thing. Why not do a simple thing?

What did Naaman do? Dip himself in the river

What happened to Naaman? He was healed/cleansed

When Naaman went back to Elisha what did he say/offer? He tried to give Elisha gifts

What did Elisha say, "As surely as the LORD lives I will not take anything from you."

When Naaman had left what did Gehazi do? Ran after Naaman to ask for the gifts

Did Gehazi tell Naaman the truth? No. He said the gifts were for some other people

What happened when Gehazi went back to Elisha? Elisha asked him where he had been  
(Gave him the chance to repent.)

What happened to Gehazi? He was covered in leprosy. (He was punished for his coveting.)

**Closing Prayer:**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Dear Jesus, forgive us when we forget that all we have comes from You. Forgive us when we hold other things more important than You. Teach us to desire You and Your Word more than any other thing.

In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.