

Heart Matters – Faith that stands firm

2 Kings 5: 1 – 27 Elisha and Naaman

1. A girl's faith in a foreign land 1 - 3

- God uses great men and young girls!
- Faith operates across all boundaries
- A captured maidservant serving God with a heart for people
- Naaman a great man in Aram (Syria) struck with leprosy

2. A King's request and lavish gifts 4 - 8

- The King of Israel knows his limits
- He does not know God!
- Elisha steps in serving a foreigner!

3. A great man humbled 9 - 12

- Go wash yourself 7 times in the Jordan
- Naaman needed to learn how God works on hearts as well as leprosy!

4. Gifts that reveal hearts 13 – 27

- Naaman humbles himself and is cured, leprosy and heart!
- Faith lived out in a challenging situation "Go in peace"
- Gehazi – sees the gifts and he wants some!
- Naaman is delighted to give and provides servants to carry them!
- Where have you been Gehazi?
- Gehazi – experiences the leprosy Naaman had – a man humbled

Digging Deeper

Read 2 Kings 5: 1 – 27

1. So far we have seen faith exercised by men in prominent position. What barriers would the young slave girl have faced in standing firm in her faith?
2. Many of us feel we have little influence in the world around us. How do we raise our expectations and take responsibility as people of faith today?
3. How would Naaman have felt about his disease at the start of the story? How would that have changed after he was healed? What does that teach us about life's sufferings?
4. Are there things in your life that you wish weren't there? How might God be using them to draw your heart towards Him?
5. Naaman had to be humbled before he could be healed. Is humility a requirement for faith?
6. What challenges did Naaman face on returning to Aram? How do we know how and when compromise is a right course to take?
7. Why would Elisha refuse to accept Naaman's gifts?
8. Gehazi's heart is exposed by his actions. Do our actions tell us important information about our hearts? What would an undivided heart look like for Gehazi?
9. Was Gehazi's punishment harsh or just?