

WASH IN THE RIVER

2 Kings 5:1–19

Introduction

- Some problems cannot be solved by strength
- Naaman had authority but no answer
- Choose your way or God's way

1. Real Problem

2 Kings 5:1

Now Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man in the view of his master, and eminent, because by him the Lord had given victory to Aram. The man was also a valiant warrior, but afflicted with leprosy.

1. Real Problem

- Successful outside, diseased inside
- Sin works quietly and destroys deeply
- Romans 3:23

- Looks fine online
- Inside: anxiety, loneliness, jealousy
- Social media hides pain, not heals



- Good job, ambition, income
- Yet empty and restless
- Success cannot fix the soul



- Stable home outwardly
- Conflict inwardly
- Outward peace ≠ inward peace



- If we cannot heal ourselves, where do we find healing?

2. God's Method

2 Kings 5:10-12

*And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh will be restored to you and you will be clean."¹¹ But Naaman was **furiously and went away**, and he said, "Behold, I thought, 'He will certainly come out to me, and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, and wave his hand over the site and cure the leprosy.'¹² Are Abanah and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, not 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**.*

2. God's Method

- Naaman expected drama
- God said: Wash in Jordan seven times
- Too simple, too humbling

Spiritual Lesson

- God's way is simple
- God's way confronts pride
- Repent, Believe, Obey

- Student refuses tutoring
- Pride blocks help

- Refuses counsel
- Wants independence
- Pride blocks growth

- Need counseling/prayer
- Delay help
- Pride delays healing

- Transformation comes through obedience

3. Step Into Obedience

2 Kings 5:13-14

Then his servants approached and spoke to him, saying, “My father, had the prophet told you to do some great thing, would you not have done it? How much more then, when he says to you, ‘Wash, and be clean’?”¹⁴ So he went down and dipped himself in the Jordan seven times, in accordance with the word of the man of God; and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.

3. Step Into Obedience

- Naaman humbled himself
- Obeyed seven times
- Completely cleansed

Faith Principle

- Miracles don't happen on the bank
- Faith moves the feet

Applications

- Let go of hidden sin
- Stop comparison
- Forgive quickly
- Daily prayer

Applications

- Surrender ambition
- Trust God with future
- Seek counsel
- Release anxiety

Applications

- Pray together
- Restore communication
- Lead children spiritually

Final Question

- Stay on the bank?
- Or step into the river with faith?

Conclusion

- Humility
- Obedience
- Surrender
- Transformation

Invitation

- Step in today
- Trust God today
- Obey God today

Let's Pray

