



Campbell Chapel

Sermon by Bob Bradley



What have you got to lose? Try Jesus Christ.

Sunday, September 30, 2018

Bob Bradley

2 Kings 5. It is a very familiar story. However, there is one thing here tonight that I have never paid any attention to. This thought has been on my mind for several days. As I was reading it and preparing for the lesson, there was a thought here, again, that I had never thought about. I had never seen before. I never really gave it much thought. Therefore, the Lord being our helper tonight, we want to do that. The book of 2 Kings 5.

2 Kings 5:1 Now Naaman, captain of the host of the king of Syria, was a great man with his master, and honourable, because by him the LORD had given deliverance unto Syria: he was also a mighty man in valour, *but he was a leper.*

2 Kings 5:2 And the Syrians had gone out by companies, and had brought away captive out of the land of Israel a little maid; and she waited on Naaman's wife.

2 Kings 5:3 And she said unto her mistress, Would God my lord *were* with the prophet that *is* in Samaria! for he would recover him of his leprosy.

2 Kings 5:4 And *one* went in, and told his lord, saying, Thus and thus said the maid that *is* of the land of Israel.

2 Kings 5:5 And the king of Syria said, Go to, go, and I will send a letter unto the king of Israel. And he departed, and took with him ten talents of silver, and six thousand *pieces* of gold, and ten changes of raiment.

2 Kings 5:6 And he brought the letter to the king of Israel, saying, Now when this letter is come unto thee, behold, I have *therewith* sent Naaman my servant to thee, that thou mayest recover him of his leprosy.

2 Kings 5:7 And it came to pass, when the king of Israel had read the letter, that he rent his clothes, and said, *Am* I God, to kill and to make alive, that this man doth send unto me to recover a man of his leprosy? wherefore consider, I pray you, and see how he seeketh a quarrel against me.

2 Kings 5:8 And it was so, when Elisha the man of God had heard that the king of Israel had rent his clothes, that he sent to the king, saying, Wherefore hast thou rent thy clothes? let him come now to me, and he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel.

2 Kings 5:9 So Naaman came with his horses and with his chariot, and stood at the door of the house of Elisha.

- 2 Kings 5:10 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.
- 2 Kings 5:11 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.
- 2 Kings 5:12 *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.*
- 2 Kings 5:13 And his servants came near, and spake unto him, and said, My father, *if* the prophet had bid thee *do some* great thing, wouldest thou not have done *it?* how much rather then, when he saith to thee, Wash, and be clean?
- 2 Kings 5:14 Then went he down, and dipped himself seven times in Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God: and his flesh came again like unto the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.
- 2 Kings 5:15 And he returned to the man of God, he and all his company, and came, and stood before him: and he said, Behold, now I know that *there is* no God in all the earth, but in Israel: now therefore, I pray thee, take a blessing of thy servant.
- 2 Kings 5:16 But he said, As the LORD liveth, before whom I stand, I will receive none. And he urged him to take *it*; but he refused.
- 2 Kings 5:17 And Naaman said, Shall there not then, I pray thee, be given to thy servant two mules' burden of earth? for thy servant will henceforth offer neither burnt offering nor sacrifice unto other gods, but unto the LORD.
- 2 Kings 5:18 In this thing the LORD pardon thy servant, *that* when my master goeth into the house of Rimmon to worship there, and he leaneth on my hand, and I bow myself in the house of Rimmon: when I bow down myself in the house of Rimmon, the LORD pardon thy servant in this thing.
- 2 Kings 5:19 And he said unto him, Go in peace. So he departed from him a little way.

If I would as you the disease that Naaman had, everybody would say what? He was a leper. Wasn't he? He also had another problem, another disease that we will talk about in a minute. He had two diseases instead of one. Sometimes, the other disease he had wasn't...we don't look at that sometimes.

Here is a wonderful story. The Bible says...

2 Kings 5:1 Now Naaman, captain of the host of the king of Syria, was a great man with his master, and honourable, because by him the LORD had given deliverance unto Syria: he was also a mighty man in valour, *but he was a leper.*

The Bible tells us here that he was an honorable man. He was great with his master.

2 Kings 5:1 Now Naaman, captain of the host of the king of Syria, was a great man with his master, and honourable, because by him the LORD had given deliverance unto Syria: he was also a mighty man in valour, *but he was a leper.*

It tells us a lot about this guy. It tells us he was a captain. He was someone that was very influential. He was a guy here, no doubt, he was a man of war. He was a man that was very brave. He was just a good man. He was a good fellow. The Bible says here that the Lord had used him.

Get this. Syria and Israel were at war. Syria was an enemy of Israel. Do you know what God had done? God had used him to give victory here to the Syrians over the Israelis. God did that. Do you know why? It was because of sin. That happens sometimes.

Here he is. He is a great man. He is a wonderful fellow. He has done a lot of great things. He has won a lot of different battles. If we would have met him anywhere, if we would have read his resume, if we would have read something about him; no doubt, it would always have been good. However, he had a serious problem. The Bible is going to tell us here that he was a leper.

Leprosy was a dreaded disease back then, even today it would be. It was a dreaded disease. I don't know what it was for sure. You can read about leprosy. There were different kinds of leprosy. It would just eat your skin away. You would have something that would get on you and it would just start eating your skin away. After a while, if it was on your hand, it would take your hand and you wouldn't be able to do anything with it. sometimes your limbs would fall off. We got into the advanced stages, it would actually kill you.

Here is a man. He is a good man. He is a great man. God had even used him here. However, he had a great problem. He had a problem here that nobody could help him with. There is no doubt that this problem that he had was going to kill him. It was going to cripple him. It was going to do some things for him that were not going to make life very easy.

Listen. In this world that we live in today, you and I face all kinds of issues and we face all kinds of problems. Sometimes in life, that things are hopeless for you and me. We get to the place in life that we absolutely within ourselves we cannot do one thing about it.

Isn't it great that we have a God that is all-powerful? Isn't it great that we still yet have a God today that can cure cancer? We have a God today that can do some absolute great things.

Here Naaman was. He was hopeless. He was helpless. No doubt, he had gone to all the people that he could go to. He had probably gone to every doctor that he could go to. However, he did not get any better. The Bible tells us here that he was a leper. He probably had all kinds of spots all over him.

Listen. There is nothing that is too great for the God of heaven. The situation you are in tonight may look hopeless. Days may look real dark. However, I want you to understand to trust the God of heaven. Do you know what I know? If you are His child, he knows what is going on in your life and he will help you. I know that.

Here he is. He is a leper. He is helpless and he is hopeless. Does everybody get that?

Have you ever felt that way? Have you ever felt helpless? There have been times in my life that I have felt helpless. Haven't you? Some of it has been standing by some of your family's bedside. You feel helpless and you feel hopeless. Yet we have a God that is not helpless and He is not hopeless. When we have Him, then we have something that is going on, that is going to help us.

2 Kings 5:2 And the Syrians had gone out by companies, and had brought away captive out of the land of Israel a little maid; and she waited on Naaman's wife.

The Syrians had gone out. The Syrians had gone out. They had bands, and companies here. A bunch of soldiers had got together and they were raiding the Israeli camps along the Samaritan border. They were going there. They came along one time and they captured a little girl here.

How would you have felt if you had been laying in the bed one night and you and your sibling had been wrestling around and fighting around, and you had been watching YouTube and singing and all of that; how would you feel if they would have come along and took you. Soldiers would have come along and they would have captured you and they would have taken you to a land that you could not speak their language? It would have got your attention. I don't care who you are.

That is exactly what happened here to this young girl that was here. The armies of the Syrians came. They took this little girl, this little maid. They took her right out of her home. They took her back unto Syria. Do you know what happened? God had a plan. Do you know what He did? God made sure that she was given unto Naaman. Do you know why? Because God had a plan.

I'm glad that God has a plan for our young people. Aren't you? I'm glad that our God has got something for them to do. amen! Scared? A little bit.

Here is the thing. They came and got her. They captured her. They took her back to Syria. There she is. She is captured. Just a teenager, a small young child, in a foreign land away from home. None of her family was there. Here she is. Something happens. Don't tell me there is not a God in heaven. You couldn't persuade me of that. You couldn't pay me enough to persuade me that there is not a God in heaven. Do you know what God was going to do? God was going to use this little girl to be able to do something to a Gentile that He had not done in Israel.

Read Luke 4, and it will tell you that. He is going to do something here for a Gentile that He has never done for one of the Jewish people.

The Bible says...Here is what is going to happen.

2 Kings 5:2 And the Syrians had gone out by companies, and had brought away captive out of the land of Israel a little maid; and she waited on Naaman's wife.

Here this little girl is. She is waiting on Naaman. I don't know how long she had been in Syria. I don't know how long she had been there. I do know one thing. I really appreciate the testimony of this young girl. She sees Naaman. She knows he is a leper. She is waiting on Naaman's wife. Listen. She does this day in and day out... Do you know what she does one time? She said, "I want to tell you guys something. I want to tell you, if my master was with the prophet that was back in the land of Israel, he would recover him of his leprosy."

2 Kings 5:3 And she said unto her mistress, Would God my lord were with the prophet that is in Samaria! for he would recover him of his leprosy.

Do you know what that took out of the young girl? That took a great amount of faith and courage, to be able to stand up and tell people that she did not know; "Hey, there is a prophet back in the land of Israel. If Naaman will go back there and get with him, he will recover him of his leprosy."

Do you know what we need today? We need faith like that today. We need to have faith and courage. We need to be bold about what we know about our God today. If we would be, we would see a whole lot more things happening for the Lord.

Do you know what happens? In my mind, this girl is a teenager. Now she tells Naaman, a mighty warrior and his family; "If you want to get cleansed, you need to go down the road a ways. I know a guy down there. I know a God down there who can heal you of your leprosy."

Do you know what I am going to tell you tonight? You may have tried everything in this world to get peace and satisfaction. You may have tried everything in this world to get peace on the inside. Do you know what? You are not going to find it. The only place you are going to find it is in Jesus Christ. That is the only place you are going to find it. You can look this world over. You can buy. You can sell. You can get. You can go.

You can do all kinds of things. However, there is no hope in any other name except the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Bible says here in verse 3...

2 Kings 5:3 And she said unto her mistress, Would God my lord were with the prophet that *is* in Samaria! for he would recover him of his leprosy.

Do you know what happens? When this little girl tells Naaman's wife, "Hey, there is somebody down the road that can heal your husband. He can heal Naaman." Do you know what they did? They took the message and gave it to Naaman. Do you know what Naaman decides? "Hey, this thing is worth a shot. I'm dying here anyway. The leprosy is going to kill me. It is going to ruin my life anyway, so what do I have to lose?"

Do you know what I want to say to the unsaved today? What have you got to lose? Why don't you come and try Jesus Christ? Try Him for one minute, one hour and do you know what I know? I know that you will never ever want to go back into the world. Do you know why? Because He is the greatest thing that will ever happen to you. The day that you meet Him as your Savior will be the greatest day of your life. Bar-none.

Here is what happens. They devise a plan.

I did a little bit of research today. They said, "Here is what we are going to do. Naaman we are going to give you a letter." Ben-hadad—if I understand things correctly—he is the king in Syria and Joram—if I understand things correctly—is the king in Israel. Naaman says, "Hey, this is what I want to do." They decide they are going to send a letter. They write the letter to the king. Ben-hadad writes a letter. He writes it for Naaman. He says, "Hey, this is my servant. He has leprosy. I want you to heal him of his leprosy." When you read what they send here, when you read about how much gold and how much silver that they sent. In today's money, do you know how much that would have been? It would have been 35 or 36 million dollars that they sent; that they were going to take from Syria back down into the land of Samaria here and they were going to give that to the king here, if he could just do something for this man called Naaman. However, the 36 million dollars, or however much it was; you can't buy a miracle. You can't buy the favor of Almighty God.

Do you know how you get it? Simply just believe Him and trust Him and follow Him then you will have the blessing and the favor of Almighty God upon your life.

I'm so glad a long time ago, way up in the head of a holler; I met a man called Jesus and He changed my life. I have never been the same since. Have I messed up? I have surely messed up. I have went the wrong way. I have all kinds of issues and problems. Do you know what I do know? I know where I am going tonight. I know where I am going. I know the direction I am on. I know that I am right with Him.

This world may hate you and me but I know where I am going. This world may want to kill you and me, but I know where I am going. They may want to slander and run down

and kill and destroy but thank God there is coming a day that's all going to be over and we are going to be in heaven with Him.

They send the letter. They go down. Joram gets the letter. This is all because of the little maid; one little girl that had been kidnapped from her bed... She is taken from her home. And she is taken to a foreign land as a prisoner of war. She knows the God of Israel. She knows Elisha. She knows the power that the God of Israel has and what could be done by just simply listening to the instructions of the man of God. Amen! Simply by listening to the instructions of the man of God. They sent the letter. They go down.

Joram reads the letter and the first thing he says—do you know what he thinks? He thinks that Ben-hadad is trying to start a racket with him. He makes the statement, as you read on down through here. As he reads the letter, he makes the statement; “Am I God?” in verse 7...

2 Kings 5:7 And it came to pass, when the king of Israel had read the letter, that he rent his clothes, and said, *Am I God*, to kill and to make alive, that this man doth send unto me to recover a man of his leprosy? wherefore consider, I pray you, and see how he seeketh a quarrel against me.

When Joram reads the letter that Ben-hadad had sent with Naaman down here. Do you know what the first thing is that he thinks? He thinks he is going to make war with me if I cannot heal this guy. If Naaman does not get healed then he is going to go back. He is just trying to figure out some way to have war with me.

Listen. There was a man down there by the name of Elisha. When Elisha heard that the king rent his clothes—do you know what that means? He gets all upset. He starts to mourn. He gets all carried away. Do you know what? When the man of God heard what was going on, do you know what he said? Elisha was not one bit concerned. He was not one bit upset. Do you know what he said? “Hey, you send him down here to me and everything will be just fine.” Do you know what the Bible says happened?

Listen. He said, “Just send him on down here.” They told Naaman; “You need to go down here and see another guy.” Do you know what the company did? Everybody that was with Naaman; they go down here. They go off and somebody goes up and knocks on the door where Elisha was at. No doubt they may have introduced themselves who they were and who was on the outside. Do you know what? Elisha did not even go outside. He did not even go outside to meet Naaman. Do you know what this did friend? Naaman got into a rage. He said, “Surely, this guy would come out. I thought he would and wave his hands in the air and strike the place and do something and heal me.” Do you know what? That wasn't the message at all.

I said earlier that Naaman had two diseases. Do you know what the other one was? It was pride. Naaman thought, “Hey, surely me being a man who I am and as great as I am and all I have done; surely this guy is going to come out and talk to me.”

Listen. God can do some things and He does not have to use me and He does not have to use you. All we have to do is be obedient unto Him. Elisha said, "Hey, if you want to get healed from your leprosy all that you need to do is go down and wash and dip seven times in Jordan and you will be just fine." Do you know what the Bible says happened? Naaman when he heard that he goes into a rage. He does not want to do that. Do you know why? He knew how dirty the water was in Jordan. If you know anything about the Jordan river, it is a little stream most of the time. It just runs muddy. You would not want to go down there and take a bath in it.

Listen. God can use anything He chooses to cleanse you and me.

He told him to go down there and dip seven times if he wanted to be clean that was what he was going to have to do.

We think we can bargain with God. He didn't bargain with God. God says it and we will either believe it, do it and be blessed or we disobey Him and we are not blessed. That is how it works. God does not bargain with me. God does not bargain with you.

Naaman said, "Surely, the rivers are so much cleaner than the Jordan. These rivers are clean water up there. If all I have to do is go and dip in water, I will go back home and do it."

That is what we think sometimes. That is what the enemy wants us to think. That is what the enemy wants us to think, it is unimportant to listen to the voice of God. Friend, it is important. It is important for you to listen to the voice of God. It is important that we put pride aside and listen to the voice of God. So many times, we listen to voices but they are not God's voice. We listen to all the voices that are screaming at us in this world, and there are millions of them that are screaming at us. Sometimes we listen to them. However, so many times we miss the voice of God.

Do you know what Naaman did? He goes away in a rage. After a little while the servants got him aside and said, "Hey, Naaman let's talk here a minute. If this prophet would have told you to do some great thing, wouldn't you have done it? If would have told you to climb a mountain or swim a stream or do some humongous feat; Naaman you would have done that. Wouldn't you?" Do you know what Naaman would have had to say? He would have done it. The servants here convinced him, "Just give it a shot. Let's just try this and see what happens. We don't have anything to lose. You don't have anything to lose Naaman. You may get some mud on your clothes. They may be wet but what do you have to lose?"

That is what I want to tell the world today. What do you have to lose? Your life is in a mess. Amen! Your life is in a panic. There is no peace in your life, in your home, in your marriage. What do you have to lose to just simply try Jesus Christ? Just try Him. If you don't like Him, the devil will always take you back. You can always go back to Syria and do what you want to back up there.

“Naaman just try it.” So, they finally convince him to go. Probably wasn’t making much sense to Naaman. However, he goes and he does.

When you read here do you know what you will find out in verse 14? It did not happen on the first dip, the second dip, the third dip, fourth dip, fifth dip, sixth dip... However, the seventh time he goes down and comes up the Bible says in verse 14...

2 Kings 5:14 Then went he down, and dipped himself seven times in Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God: and his flesh came again like unto the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.

Isn’t that awesome? There was no virtue in the water. There was no super-duper power in the water, or in the mud that was there or even in the Jordan River. It is a very famous river. There was no virtue there. There was no power in that. The power came and the life change came when he was obedient. Not partial obedience. Not dip two times and going on and saying, I’m done with this. Not dipping three times and saying hey, they are calling me on the cell phone. It is dinging. Not the fourth time. I have to get to work. My coffee is getting cold. Not the fifth time. The kids are hollering. Not the sixth time. On the seventh time—that is God’s complete number. The number of completion when you read the Bible. He dipped seven times and his flesh became like the flesh of a little child. Isn’t it great what God can do if we will just simply be obedient to Him?

Folks, if you don’t believe God, if you are not obedient to God; you will never get anywhere with God. You will never have the favor of God upon your life. God will never bless you. You will never know what an answered prayer is. You will know none of that if you do not live a life of obedience. If you won’t simply trust God...amen! If you won’t simply trust God for the good days...or in the good days and the bad days; when life is falling apart and when everything is going well. That should not dictate how much we trust Almighty God. How I feel should not dictate what I do for God. Amen! We let that do that a lot. Do you know what happens here?

He is cleansed. The Bible says he returns to the man of God and all his company.

2 Kings 5:15 And he returned to the man of God, he and all his company, and came, and stood before him: and he said, Behold, now I know that *there is* no God in all the earth, but in Israel: now therefore, I pray thee, take a blessing of thy servant.

He comes back and tells Elisha, I know something now Elisha. I know that there is no other God anywhere except in the land of Israel. There is no other God. You see, Naaman and all the people of Syria worshiped all kinds of idols and images that were just dead. They were things that men had made. However, here on this day, he gets acquainted with the true, one and only Living God. He recognizes that. That is confessing with his mouth. He is confessing, hey there is no other God. He wants to pay him now. He wants to give him this 36 million dollars or whatever he had. Do you

know what Elisha said? I don't want your money. I don't want your money. He did not take it.

2 Kings 5:17 And Naaman said, Shall there not then, I pray thee, be given to thy servant two mules' burden of earth? for thy servant will henceforth offer neither burnt offering nor sacrifice unto other gods, but unto the LORD.

Listen. When Naaman could not convince him to take the money and the gifts... "Let me ask you one thing then. Can I have two mules load of dirt? From your farm you have here, can I just have two mules load of dirt. Can I take that back with me to Syria? Because I am going to build me an altar over there and I am going to worship the God of heaven. He gets that.

2 Kings 5:18 In this thing the LORD pardon thy servant, *that* when my master goeth into the house of Rimmon to worship there, and he leaneth on my hand, and I bow myself in the house of Rimmon: when I bow down myself in the house of Rimmon, the LORD pardon thy servant in this thing.

Naaman was an important guy. His lord, the king; he would go to worship at a heathen temple. Do you know what Naaman had to do? He had to go with him. He says, "Pardon me, I pray thee..."

2 Kings 5:18 In this thing the LORD pardon thy servant, *that* when my master goeth into the house of Rimmon to worship there, and he leaneth on my hand, and I bow myself in the house of Rimmon: when I bow down myself in the house of Rimmon, the LORD pardon thy servant in this thing.

2 Kings 5:19 And he said unto him, Go in peace. So he departed from him a little way.

Do you know what he was saying? He is saying, "Hey, I might bow down, but I am not going to worship him. I might be bowed down but my heart is not going to be worshiping him. He says please forgive me for this.

That shows me that this guy got the goods. Not only did he get cleansed physically, but he got saved on the inside. He got cleaned up on the inside simply because he listened to the voice of God. It all started—get this—it all started by one little girl that was taken captive. She had enough courage to stand up and say, "Hey, I know where you can get help at. I know that there is somebody that can help you."

Kids listen. You kids, you, young people that are here tonight; I call you kids but you are really not kids. You, young people here tonight, do you know what you guys do? You guys interact with people every day at school that I will never see. You guys interact with kids at school who really needs you. They really need somebody to talk to. They really need somebody to listen to them. Do you know what you guys can do? You guys can do the same thing this little girl did. You can tell them, "Hey, I can't help you but I know where you can get help at. I know where there is help at for you." Our young people needs to hear that.

So many of our young people are living right on the edge tonight, right on the edge and they don't know what to do or where to go.

Listen. Don't ever give up hope because there is hope in Jesus Christ.

You young people encourage them. Help them. Pray with them. Hold their hands and pray with them. Tell them, "Hey, the Lord will help you. The Lord will save you. The Lord will cleanse you." Some of your friends may make fun of you but that's okay. That is not going to hurt anything. They made fun of Jesus. Didn't they?

Listen. People are counting on us. I could not have been there with Naaman to tell him that nor could you, nor could probably anybody else.

However, this one little girl that had been captured; she had enough courage, she had enough faith in the God of heaven to say, "I know where you can get help at."

Lets tells our families, first of all, let's live in a way, let's live in sphere of a life that God answers prayer. Let's live right. Let's live a clean life. That does not mean we are perfect. Let's live in a way that we have God's presence in our life. Let's live in a way that when we pray, God answers our prayers. Then let's encourage our people. Hey, I can't help you. I can't save you but I know someone who can. I can get you to where you can get help at.

I have said there here the other night. I believe this. The Lord has shown me some things. I really believe this. It is up to people. I think there are people that if they would come to church and come to church faithfully; God would heal their bodies. I believe that. You can say, I don't believe that. You don't have to believe it but I do. Do you know why? Because I have seen God heal people. I know that God heals people. There are people that you and I know that is in our families that if they would just come to church and be faithful to God; God would heal them. God will do some great things in their life. They have all kinds of talent. They have so much they can do. I'm not saying they don't have issues because they do have. They have problems. God is bigger than all our problems. He is a whole lot bigger than Naaman's problem.

Nobody could help Naaman. The doctors could not help Naaman. However, God cured him on this day and it changed the direction of the rest of his life.

Follow Jesus Christ today and do you know what you can do? The rest of your life can be changed.

Come and pray—