

The Healing of Naaman (乃縵得醫治) TC Lo (July 8, 2012)

From Naaman's story (2 Kings 5:1-19), we can draw the following lessons (從乃縵的故事中獲靈訓):

- Two Theological Implications (兩個神學意義):
 1. God is sovereign over history and human existence (神在歷史和個人生命中掌王權, 居首位).

“By him (Naaman) the Lord had given deliverance unto Syria (v.1).”
The sovereign God:

 - Controls the rise and fall of empires.
 - Directs the outcome of battles and wars (v.1)
 - Guides individual lives.
 - Predestines the State of Israel.
 - Provides providence to the Church.
 2. Salvation is a free gift from God (得救單本乎恩; 宗教行為均徒勞). (v.16)

The prophet answered, "As surely as the LORD lives, whom I serve, I will not accept a thing." And even though Naaman urged him, he refused (v. 16).

 - The principle of religion is: “I obey---therefore I am accepted by God.”
 - If I am better than you, I become self-righteous and disdainful toward others.
 - If I am worse than you, I shall be plagued with anxiety, insecurity, and irritability.
 - After all, I have no certainty whether I am good enough or not.
 - Even I am good, I have no guarantee that I can sustain.
 - The principle of the Gospel is: “I am accepted by God through what Christ has done---therefore I obey.”
 - If I am better than you, I give thanks to God because it is all His grace.
 - If I am falling short, I know I am still accepted and loved by God and God will help me to get up.
 - I have certainty due to the indwelling of the Spirit that I am always God's child.
 - Even if I fall, I know that Christ must forgive me according to His faithfulness and promise.
- Three Life-Applications (三個生活應用):
 1. Be available---God can use any believer, no matter how ordinary he/she may be (神能用任何人為祂的器皿) (v.2)
 - The young Jewish girl directed Naaman to Elisha, a man of God.

- Andrew brought his brother Simon (John 1:41) and some Greeks to Christ (John 12:20-22).
 - A servant who nursed Charles Wesley as he lay critically ill while in his thirties won him to the Lord. Charles later became the leader of the Methodist movement and he wrote many hymns.
2. Beware of pride and self-opinions---for they impede us to come to Christ in salvation and service (驕傲與自信是靈命的攔阻)(v.1 and v.12)
- Pride---Naaman was a powerful man. Lord Acton said, "Power tends to corrupt; absolute power corrupts absolutely." But out of grace, God put a touch of leprosy in Naaman to soften his heart.
 - Self-opinions--- "Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than any of the waters of Israel? Couldn't I wash in them and be cleansed?" So he turned and went off in a rage (v.12). God's way is always better than our way.
 - An unbeliever would go God's way if God goes his way. But a believer would go God's way even God's way means costly sacrifice to him.
3. Be our brothers' or sisters' encourager (學習鼓勵軟弱或跌倒的弟兄或姊妹) (v.13)
- "Naaman's servants went to him and said, "My father, if the prophet had told you to do some great thing, would you not have done it? How much more, then, when he tells you, `Wash and be cleansed!'" (v.13). Naaman obeyed and be healed.
- We need someone like Naaman's servant to remove our spiritual blind spot from time to time.
 - We should be our brother's or sister's encourager to lend a helping hand when he or she falls.
 - Don't forget we have a High Priest who constantly prays for us and strengthen us through fellow believers.