

INTRODUCTION: Message - "Hey ME! Get Outta My Way!" (2 Kings ch 5)

Have you ever been disappointed because God didn't answer a prayer quite like you thought it should have been answered? Perhaps a situation turned out differently than you wanted or expected. It's easy to develop preconceived notions about how God should move for us in times of disaster and everyday situations. Consider this... God's will and purposes for you may have something standing in the way: And that something could be YOU!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. When you request prayer or come forward in prayer, what are you expecting to happen and how soon? Are you expecting to *feel* any different or hope to hear a word of prophecy?
2. Read 2 Kings 5:1. God used Naaman for His own purposes. Was Syria a friend or enemy to Israel? Do you find it interesting that God would use Naaman this way?
3. Read 2 Kings 5:11-12. What kind of ceremony did Naaman expect from the prophet Elisha? Naaman was given simple, easy to do instructions to cure his leprosy. So what made Naaman was so angry?
4. Read 2 Kings 5:13. What would have been the consequences for Naaman had his servants not intervened? What if they had kept silent?
5. Read 2 Kings 5:14. If you were Naaman, what might be going through your mind on the first through sixth dips where nothing had changed? How hard would it be for you to dip seven times?
6. Read Luke 4:23-30. What point was Jesus making to the Jews by mentioning the healing of Naaman in the Old Testament? What was the Jews reaction?

SO WHAT?:

Perhaps God has already provided answers to prayers but our eyes and ears are closed to notice them. Maybe the answers appear too simple and when wanted "ceremony" or we wanted something spectacular to happen. God may answer prayers in stages waiting on you to be obedient through each stage. Ask God to open your eyes and ears to his promptings and be willing to obey... even if doing so seems trivial. Put aside preconceived notions about how God should move. Sometimes we must put our faith in action, bit by bit.

THINK ABOUT IT:

"(8) For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. (9) For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts." (Isaiah 55:8-9, KJV)