

Hope in a dark time

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February 16, 2020
Gray

Introduction

1. 2 Kings 5:1-14
2. Naaman was an important man, this can be seen by the words, "captain", "great", "honorable." verse 1
3. Naaman was a man full of leprosy which is a type of sin in many ways
 1. Both are terrible, contagious, deceptive, acquired, progressive, killers and both are cured by God.
4. Leprosy was so loathsome that its cure was called a cleansing
5. Although the outcome was good Naaman could have had the blessings of God earlier.
6. This day we want to study the mistakes of Naaman so that we will not make this same mistakes.

II Discussion

1. He went to the wrong party
 1. Some want to go to a priest to be absolved of guilt 1 Timothy 2:5-6
 2. Some want to go to the old Law for terms of salvation Colossians 2:14; Romans 7:1-6; Hebrews 5:8-9
 3. Some want to go to the thief on the cross Hebrews 9:15-17
 4. But we must go to Christ John 14:6; Acts 4:12; John 12:48
2. He wanted to buy the blessings of God
 1. Some want to buy instead of consecrating themselves Acts 8:18
 2. Some want to base salvation on moral goodness Acts 10
 3. This blessing of salvation is not bought with anything from us Titus 3:5; Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8-9
 4. Our salvation has already been bought 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; 1 Peter 1:18-19
3. He was prejudice 2 Kings 5:11
 1. Some have a fixed opinion of what they want God's way to be Jeremiah 10:23; Proverbs 14:12
 2. Some want a show or something mysterious Matthew 15:9; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25
 3. Some make light of God's way Genesis 19:14; Matthew 22:5
 4. We must submit to God's wishes if we want salvation from sin 1 Peter 5:5-6; Matthew 18:1-4
4. He wanted to substitute for God's plan
 1. Some want faith only James 2:24
 2. Some want an altar of prayer Acts 22:16
 3. Some want sprinkling or pouring Romans 6:2; Colossians 2:12
 4. Some want denominationalism Matthew 16:18; Romans 16:16; Ephesians 4:1-6
 5. Some want human names Acts 11:26; 1 Peter 4:16

III Conclusion

1. One of Satan's objectives is to turn men toward the things which they want for salvation and not the things that God requires
2. Naaman wanted to be treated like a great man who was a leper. Elisha treated him like a leper. Jesus did not come to call executives and socialites, but sinners to repentance.
3. Naaman was not cleansed till he corrected his mistakes and obeyed the voice of God.
4. The power was not in the water but in obedience.
5. What else can man say for God's requirements but that they are simple, suitable and successful.

Source: sermon preached 1989