



Series: Elisha
God Gives Grace to the Humble
2 Kings 5:1-16
Speaker: Pastor Jesse Schellenberg

Check out the sermon here: <https://northview.org/god-gives-grace-to-the-humble/>

A Note from Pastor Dan: Hello! Welcome to our sermon reflection. This is intended for you to spend time reflecting upon the weekend teaching of God's Word and to dig deeper into the lesson. So, it's important to have watched or listened to the message from the previous weekend. In the coming weeks, I would encourage you to use one of our Sermon Guides as you watch/listen to the sermon in order to keep focused and to note important information. As you work through this lesson, feel free to ask your parents any questions and include them in your observations.

****Quotes from Jesse's sermon will be outlined in this colour text.**

The Sermon

- ⇒ **Illustration:** Pastor Jesse began with a story of his 4yr old son, Maverick, cutting his 2 yr old sister, Wren's hair **down to the scalp!**
When Jesse and his wife were horrified at the condition of Wren's hair, Maverick attempted to use his piggybank to get back into his mom and dad's good books by paying or earning or doing something.
- ⇒ **Point:** **We have a condition to think and understand that grace works in a specific way. Today's story, teaches us about grace and the way that it works.**
- ⇒ **Reflect:** Did you ever do this to a brother/sister? What was your parents' reaction? Did you wish that you hadn't done it or that you could fix your hair styling efforts?

Jesse's Points:

1. God opposes the proud
2. God gives grace to the humble

► Read: 2 Kings 5:1 (NIV)

Naaman Healed of Leprosy

1 Now Naaman was commander of the army of the king of Aram. He was a great man in the sight of his master and highly regarded, because through him the Lord had given victory to Aram. He was a valiant soldier, but he had leprosy.^[a]

- **Do:** underline all the words in **verse 5:1 above** that describe who Naaman is
- **Jesse's emphasis:** leprosy in those days was a **death sentence**
- While Naaman was clearly an important commander in the army, who does the author say is ultimately responsible for Naaman's victories? _____

► Read: 2 Kings 5:2-6 (NIV)

² Now bands of raiders from Aram had gone out and had taken captive a young girl from Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. ³ She said to her mistress, "If only my master would see the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy."

⁴ Naaman went to his master and told him what the girl from Israel had said. ⁵ "By all means, go," the king of Aram replied. "I will send a letter to the king of Israel." So Naaman left, taking with him ten talents^[a] of silver, six thousand shekels^[b] of gold and ten sets of clothing. ⁶ The letter that he took to the king of Israel read: "With this letter I am sending my servant Naaman to you so that you may cure him of his leprosy."

- Focus in on the **young girl from Israel**. Jesse emphasized that she is a **key** person in today's text. The reality is that she was not just a servant. She had been captured in a violent raid by Aram on Israel. There was a possibility that her whole family had been brought back to Aram as captives, but it was more likely that her family was killed. This young girl was not just a servant, but was a **slave**.
- Although she was a slave of Naaman's, she showed **grace** to him by pointing him towards the possibility of the healing by the Lord
- Check out the treasure that Naaman takes to buy his healing: *ten talents^[a] of silver, six thousand shekels^[b] of gold*. That is approx.. 750 pounds of silver & 150 pounds of gold!!

► Read 2 Kings 5:7 (NIV)

⁷ As soon as the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his robes and said, "Am I God? Can I kill and bring back to life? Why does this fellow send someone to me to be cured of his leprosy? See how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me!"

- Why is the king upset?
- It may seem odd that the king would tear his robes, but that was the custom in that day when you were extremely upset.
- Jesse explained that while Israel and Aram were not in a state of open warfare, they were not really at peace. Think of when you have had an argument with someone and you're

just barely getting along with them. This is what the relationship is like between Aram & Israel.

► **Read 2 Kings 5:8-10 (NIV)**

⁸ When Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his robes, he sent him this message: “Why have you torn your robes? Have the man come to me and he will know that there is a prophet in Israel.” ⁹ So Naaman went with his horses and chariots and stopped at the door of Elisha’s house. ¹⁰ Elisha sent a messenger to say to him, “Go, wash yourself seven times in the Jordan, and your flesh will be restored and you will be cleansed.”

- Jesse pointed out an important point that while Naaman’s humble servant girl was quick to suggest Naaman go to see Elisha, the Israelite king was at a loss of what to do. The Israelite’s king first response was not to turn to the Lord but to anger and despair.
- Elisha’s response seems very relaxed. It’s almost like he’s trying to calm the Israelite king down. It’s like he’s saying, “Just chill, don’t wreck your clothes, & just have Naaman come to see me”.
- *⁹ So Naaman went with his horses and chariots and stopped at the door of Elisha’s house*
 - Picture this scene. I’m sure Elisha had a little humble home. He was not rich, just a humble prophet of God. And here comes Naaman with all of his wealth and military power with war chariots! Imagine if this happened to you. You’re sitting at your house, then you look outside and see this line of black tinted SUV’s roll up & out pours the security detail with dark sunglasses and earpieces. What would be your reaction?

► **Read 2 Kings 5:11-14 (NIV)**

¹¹ But Naaman went away angry and said, “I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, wave his hand over the spot and cure me of my leprosy. ¹² Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Couldn’t I wash in them and be cleansed?” So he turned and went off in a rage.

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’!” ¹⁴ So he went down and dipped himself in the Jordan seven times, as the man of God had told him, and his flesh was restored and became clean like that of a young boy.

- What does Jesse say is holding Naaman back from initially accepting Elisha’s guidance?
- What do you think Naaman was thinking as he walked into the Jordan river? A mighty warrior like himself walking into a river to basically take a bath?!
- Check out the result of Naaman’s dippage! He is not just healed from his skin affliction, but his skin is youthful like that of a young boy.

► **Read 2 Kings 5:15-16 (NIV)**

¹⁵ Then Naaman and all his attendants went back to the man of God. He stood before him and said, "Now I know that there is no God in all the world except in Israel. So please accept a gift from your servant."

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.

- After receiving the gift from God of physical healing, Naaman's immediate response is to offer payment for it. He even insists on it! ***But Elisha's response is that God's grace cannot be paid for.***

► **Jesse sums up the text:**

Naaman's reputation, wealth, or power did not qualify him or earn him the right to receive the healing that he needed himself. It was only when he humbled himself.

Remember Jesse's Points:

1. God opposes the proud
2. God gives grace to the humble

Dangers of pride:

- ⇒ **Illustration:** Jesse gave illustration of Steve Jobs of Apple who would never publicly share credit for any of Apple's inventions. When he would stand on the stage & present the brand new i-Whatever, he would never include his design team.
- ⇒ **Point:** that's what pride does. Pride refuses to share the stage.

► **Read Isaiah 2:12-17**

Pride tells us that "we got this", but this flies in the light of what scripture teaches us. Only God has control.

► **Read Luke 18:9-14**

The humble are not only aware of their need but aware that God alone is the source of help.

- ⇒ **Illustration:** Jesse spending time talking and answering questions of the girl at summer camp. Then following the girl who is weeping out of the worship chapel. The girl explains that she is overwhelmed as she doesn't understand how God can love her so much.
- ⇒ **Point:** But this shows she "gets" it! It is only because of who God is that He can bless us with his unmerited favour and grace.

► **Read Matthew 8:3**

God loves you so much that He humbles us in a myriad of ways.

► **Read Luke 17:11-19**

Do you acknowledge who God is and His work in your lives? Do you live a life sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leading? We are not doing this by our strength, but by God's.

- We are saved by grace, kept by grace, glorified by grace

***Check out a video of the Naaman text with sweet American twang accents ☺

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8KYeqpCKkio>

Going deeper:

A. Read the following verses that refer to pride. Jot down a couple of thoughts on how each verse resonates with your life.

- Psalm 10:4

- Proverbs 11:2

- Proverbs 13:10

- Proverbs 16:18

- Romans 12:16

- 1 Corinthians 13:4

- Philippians 2:3

- James 4:6

- James 4:10

B. Galatians 5:19-26 NLT)

Living by the Spirit's Power

¹⁹ When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, ²¹ envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God.

²² But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things! ²⁴ Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there. ²⁵ Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, or provoke one another, or be jealous of one another.

- Underline all of the sin-related words in **verses 20-21** that you think pride is the root cause. Then write those words below with the reason that you think pride would be the root cause

C. Quiet time with God

Verses 22-23 speaks about the results of God's Spirit at work in our lives. Make two lists below. One list is the Fruit and one list is your family and friends. Then spend a bit of time each day praying that the Fruit will be more evident in your relationships by God's leading.

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