

Wednesday, October 19, 2022 • Read 2Kings 5:1–14

Questions from the Scripture text: About whom does v1 speak? What was his office? Over whom? For whom? What sort of man was he in the king's eyes? Why? Who had used him? What also was he? Despite what condition? What had the Syrians done (v2)? Whom had they brought back? From where? Before whose face was she? To whom does the girl speak (v3)? What did she desire for whom? Why? Who goes to the king in v4? What does he say? What does the king command him to do in v5? What will the king do? What does Naaman take with him? What else does he bring (v6)? What does the letter tell the king of Israel to do? Who reads the letter (v7)? What does he do? What does he ask? What does he conclude the king of Syria is doing? Who hears what in v8? What does v8 call him? To whom does he send? What does he ask? What does he request? What will Naaman know, when he comes to him? What does Naaman take with him in v9? Where does he go? What does he do there? Who actually speaks to Naaman (v10)? What does he tell him to do? Where? What two results does he promise? How does Naaman feel about this (v11)? Whom had he expected to come out? How did he expect Elisha to speak to Whom? What else did he expect Elisha to do? What two things does he name in v12? To what does he compare them? What question does he ask? Then what does he do? In what frame of mind? Who come near in v13? What do they do? What do they call Naaman? What do they say he would have done if told? What do they suggest that he should do now? What does Naaman now do (v14)? Where? According to what? With what result? To what extent? How does v14 summarize it?

Where do life and power come from? 2Kings 5:1–14 looks forward to the first serial reading in morning public worship on the coming Lord's Day. In these fourteen verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **from God alone come life and power, which He gives especially by His Word.**

Where are greatness and honor found? The Spirit introduces Naaman as being great and honorable in the eyes of his master because of the military victories over which he had presided. But the way the Spirit puts it implies that this esteem was misplaced. Naaman was just an instrument. It was Yahweh Who had given victory to Syria.

For all of Naaman's (and Syria's) "greatness," it was the captured, enslaved young girl who knew where real greatness is found: the prophet, the living servant of the Word of God. When we come back to consider all of the "stuff" Naaman takes with him in v5, we'll find that Yahweh Himself is a greater abundance (v16).

Yahweh is also a greater power. Naaman is so offended in v11. There he was with all of his riches, and decked out in full military greatness in v9, standing at the door of Elisha's house. And it's just the servant that comes to the door?! And all he has is a message with instructions and a promise?!

But that's the point. If Elisha had come as expected, *it would still* have just been the servant that had come to the door. The prophet is nothing. His God is everything. And the message of his God in his mouth is everything. When Naaman finally follows the instructions (v14, cf. v10), he receives the healing. And not just physical healing; "clean" is a ceremonial reference to acceptability with man and God. The answer to the rhetorical question in v12 is actually, "No, they are not better. No, you could not wash in them and be clean."

But Naaman isn't the saddest spiritual case in our passage. The king of Israel is letting the people of Israel get captured and enslaved, *even though he knows that God could do something about it* (v7). But he doesn't care to seek God, and it doesn't even occur to him to send Naaman to the prophet. Even with theological truth about God in his head, the thought of actually engaging with God in reality just doesn't cross his mind. All he can see is the supposed political/military shenanigans of his counterpart in Damascus. At the end of the passage Naaman knows "that there is a prophet in Israel," but the king does not.

How many "Christians" live like this! At least the spiritually lifeless king knew that government can't heal disease. Many church members actually think that's a function of government. Even worse are the untold millions who say "Lord, Lord," but they don't live as subjects of a Master, looking to His every word. He just rarely occurs to them. There are many other things that they honor as great, with which their minds are occupied. And in the last day, they will hear, "Depart from Me, I never knew you." O, dear reader, may the Lord grant to you that you would know Christ as the Prophet in Israel!

What are you willing to spend time on? Money? Effort? What does this say about what you honor as great?

Sample prayer: Lord, forgive us for sharing the mindset of the king of Syria, the king of Israel, and Naaman before You converted him. Too often, other things occupy our thoughts and our attention, while You and Your Word are ideas detached from ordinary life. Forgive us! And make us to know Christ as our Prophet, from Whom we receive Your words of eternal life, which we ask in His Name, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP1 "How Blessed the Man" or TPH273 "Break, Thou the Bread of Life"

For more Hopewell @Home devotionals, please visit bit.ly/harpCHAH

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Second Kings 5 versus 1 through 14. These are what's words. No no man. Commander of the Army of the king of Syria was a great and honorable, man, and the eyes of his master. Because by him, Yahweh had given victory to Syria. He was also a mighty man of valor, but a leper On the Syrians.

Had gone out on raids and had brought back captive a young girl from the land of its role. She waited on her man's wife, Then she said to her mistress, if only my master were with the prophet who is in Samaria for he would heal him of his leprosy and man went in and told his master saying thus and thus said the girl who was from the land of Israel that the king of Syria said go now and I will send a letter to the king of Israel.

So he departed and took with him, ten talents of silver, 6,000 shekels of gold and 10 changes of clothing. Then he brought the letter to the king of Israel which said now be advised when this letter comes to you that I have sent now. A man, my servant to you that you may heal him of his leprosy and it happened.

When the king of Israel, read the letter that he tore his clothes and said, Am I God to kill and make alive that. This man sends a man to me to heal him of his leprosy. Therefore please consider and see how he seeks a coral with me. So I was when Elisha the man of God heard that, the king of Israel had torn his clothes that he sent to the game.

Saying, why have you torn your clothes? Please let him come to me and he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel and now man went with his horses and chariot and stood at the door of Elijah's house, the largest and to messenger to him saying go and wash in the Jordan seven times.

Your flesh shall be restored to you, and you shall be clean. But no man became furious and went away and said indeed. I said to myself he will he will surely come out

to me and stand call in the name of Yahweh is God. And wave his hand over the place.

And heal the leprosy or not. The abana. And the far part, the rivers of Damascus. Better than all the waters of Israel. Could I not washing them and be clean? So, he turned and went away and a rage and his servants came near and spoke to him and said My father.

If the prophet had told you to do something great, would you not have done it how much more than when he says to, you wash unweekly. So he went down and dipped seven times in the Jordan, according to the saying, and the man of God and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child and he was clean So far the reading of God's inspired and an errant wort.

So, to whom do greatness and to honor belong, the king of Syria. My thought that Naemon was great and honorable and as you see in verse 1, but the Holy Spirit takes a chunk out of that greatness and honor because he says that Naaman wasn't the one who gave the victory or acquired the victory.

He was just a tool. It was y'all always good given victory to Syria. This reminds us that we have a king on the throne of Israel. Who is not seeing that? The Lord is great and that greatness and honor belong to the Lord, because victory to the enemies of the people of Israel was among the covenant curses.

And so We have a king and Syria who gives honor who considers his commander of the commander of his army, to be great. And honorable they consider wealth greatness to be greatness and honor. No to the 10 towns of silver in the 6,000 shekels of the gold. And the ten changes the clothing and we'll consider the Lord sparing us Lord willing, next week, what happens with those things and this important distinction, between the way Elisha sees things, according to the Word of God, the Spirit of God, and the way others see things, In fact the Lord honors the servant girl as one, who has confidence in the Lord and his word.

Even though she's been taken captive and she's a slave, and the Lord even gives to the servants of men. Her name in. Sorry and speak American when we're not reading it out of the text. The Lord gives to the servant girl, or to the servants of Naaman, the privilege of being the ones who speak some sense in verse 13 servants come near to him.

And speak to him saying my father if the prophet and told you and so forth. But it is God who is great? And as God who is honorable, He is the one Wow who had given victory to Syria. He is the one who would give cleansing to name and but he does that not in the way that name and expects.

He's furious. That licer doesn't even come out dead. It's a servant who comes out to him and he's furious that. There's not some grand display, it's just some instructions about going and, and washing in the Jordan, these things didn't seem great, but the reason is, the only one who is truly great is God.

Everything else is creature by comparison to God the Creator. Everything else is an instrument, whatever. Good is done, whatever power any anything that's all that. All comes from the Lord. In fact, when the king of Syria sends name and to Israel, or just some area, which is the capital city in the northern kingdom and the king, of course, tears, his clothes.

He recognizes that Kings governments. Men can't heal people from disease, something we wish our own government would recognize about itself. But They're being a king. And Israel doesn't give you any hope So, when Elijah hears about it, he says, send them to me.

And he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel. You see it's the Word of God. And it's the Lord himself, who is the great power. And we need to not just humble ourselves but have a right and sober judgment about all men and see that the Lord is the one who is powerful and it's through His Word especially especially that he works.

And so the little girl didn't just say send him to Israel or send him to the king of Israel. Said if only he was with the prophet. If only my master with the prophet there's in some area and the Word of God does indeed and give the directions by which the Lord cleanses him.

He goes down. He dips seven times in the Jordan according to the saying the man of God and his flesh is restored like the flesh of a little child and he is clean. How thankful we should be that we have the Word of God and the promises of God to use His word.

This is what you use us to give us faith, that comes by hearing the Word of Christ. This is what you uses to make us. Holy sanctifying this by his truth is we're just truth. This is what he uses to make us wise along the way. Wise for our justification, wise, for sanctification, wise for serving the Lord.

And our time in this world makes the word of God as we receive it, and are not hearers only, but doers also Receive it with humility and meekness and confidence. And God, it becomes the implanted word that was able to save our souls. It is the word that instructs us and trains us and corrects us or be exists.

So that we may be thoroughly equipped thoroughly supplied for every good work, and the Word of God is the special way The particular way by which God has chosen to work in creation and in redemption, and it is not to be despised. We should consider it the great thing in our lives.

Because God is the water to whom all greatness belongs and to whom all honorable ones and it is his word that he has given the privilege of being the primary instrument by which he exercises that power in our lives. So made a spirit continue to train our hearts to, to give a great weightiness and value to his word in our personal life and our family life.

And especially in the Lord's day. When we have that assembly, that enters heaven. That is addressed by Jesus from heaven in the preaching of His Word that we would know. There is a profit in the church. This one with capital P. The Lord Jesus Christ on the he shall ultimately heal us of all things, all physical dolls, all spiritual ills, because it is that word not only, by which he has brought us to faith, but by which he preserves us until we inherit the unshakable kingdom and come into his rest when we have ceased from our works.

In this world protest. The Holy Spirit to do that. Oh, it's very we pray that you would give us the understanding of the prophet indeed. As we see that you gave that understanding even to the servant girl so that our hearts would have great confidence in your Word because our confidence is in you help us not to be impressed with kings armies and battles and wealth.

Like we are impressed with you and your word and especially our profit, the Lord Jesus Christ. We thank you that we do not have to go to some area. He who sits in his throne on. The heaven has come near, Holy Spirit by your and dwelling of us and communicating to us the fellowship of the Father and of the Son.

And so we thank you for your fellowship of Holy Spirit. Pray that we might know it and we might grow in our experience of it, grant it we ask in Jesus name Amen.