***2 Kings 5:9-14 Then Naaman went with his horses and chariot, and he stood at the door of Elisha’s house. 10And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, “Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored to you, and you shall be clean.” 11But Naaman became furious, and went away and said, “Indeed, I said to myself, ‘He will surely come out to me, and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, and wave his hand over the place, and heal the leprosy.’ 12Are not the Abanah and the Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?” So he turned and went away in a rage. 13And 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 then, when he says to you, ‘Wash, and be clean’?” 14So he went down and dipped seven times in the Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God; and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.***

Last week, we talked about the 10 lepers Jesus healed. 9 were cleansed. 1 was made whole. 9 returned to earthly life. 1 received eternal life. The difference – Faith – Your Faith has made you whole – that’s what Jesus told the kneeling Samaritan.

This week, we’re with Naaman. Naaman was a high-ranking Syrian official. Like the 10 last week, Naaman had leprosy. The story goes that he was told by a Jewish maid servant of Elisha and the miracles Elisha was known for. Naaman went to his king, who went to Israel’s king, who tore his clothes and didn’t even think to send Naaman to Elisha. Elisha sent word and Naaman eventually made his way to Elisha by a very round about way. And so it is with so many today. We know Jesus is the Healer, Counselor, Protector, Mediator – He’s our High Priest; yet, many go every which way, except directly to the Source. Everyone on Facebook knows, but Jesus has not yet been consulted.

Verses 9-10 *Then Naaman went with his horses and chariot, and he stood at the door of Elisha’s house. 10And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, “Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored to you, and you shall be clean.”* Naaman arrives at Elisha’s door, with many horses, loaded with gifts and gold, his servants in tow – a great man, filled with pride. A messenger comes out of Elisha’s door with clear, simple instruction.

Verses 11-12 *But Naaman became furious, and went away and said, “Indeed, I said to myself, ‘He will surely come out to me, and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, and wave his hand over the place, and heal the leprosy.’ 12Are not the Abanah and the Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?” So, he turned and went away in a rage.* Naaman doesn’t just bring gifts, servants, and horses. He brings his expectations as well – I will be greeted, I will be respected, I will see quivering of hands and mystical chants! He will offer mysterious prayers and I will be honored with great fanfare! But instead, Naaman feels dismissed, disrespected, as though his problem is minimized – and he is enraged, allowing his pride to crowd out the blessing.

How often we allow our expectations to crowd out the blessing. How often we fail to listen to a servant, expecting the Prophet to appear. How often Pride blocks the way to Paradise. If the Prophet had only quivered His hand and shouted for me to go wash, I’d do it. No. If we won’t hear the servant of God, we won’t hear God either. Pride thoroughly stops the ears and blinds the eyes.

Verse 13 - *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 then, when he says to you, ‘Wash, and be clean’?”* Now, Naaman’s servants speak straight to the pride. Again, servants speaking truth.

How often sound advice and Biblical reasoning comes through humble sources. How often life changing counsel comes from a grandmother, an uncle, a soft-spoken friend, a lowly employee. Pride is often undermined by the soft, repetitive wash of love. Many barreling down a road of misery have been turned aside by the persistent love of one of God’s servants. We need do nothing great! Our greatness is found in willingness to serve. If we’re unwilling to sweep the floors, we need not wonder why God doesn’t call us to greater things.

Verse 14 - *So he went down and dipped seven times in the Jordan, according to the say-ing of the man of God; and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.* Naaman hears the wise counsel of lowly servants. Naaman is obedient. Naaman washes. Naaman is cleansed. It sounded too simple, too easy, too humbling; yet it restored him

We too must be obedient. God calls some to paint masterpieces and some to wash dishes. Mission fields are found in China and in our own yard. God calls some to be Joseph and David! And He calls some to be a maid servant, slaving in Naaman’s house. If we think ourselves too great for the small stuff, He will think us too small and weak for the great stuff.

This week, let’s take inventory of pride. Those that say I have none may find storage rooms and closets full. Have you humbled yourself before Jesus? It’s only by way of bended knee that we will come to one day stand before Almighty God. Faithfulness in the small, the obscure, the thankless, and the difficult is Greatness in God’s eyes. May we all become Great in God’s eyes.