

# 7 Dunks in a Muddy River

The king of Aram had great admiration for Naaman, the commander of his army, because through him the LORD had given Aram great victories. But though Naaman was a mighty warrior, he suffered from leprosy. <sup>2</sup>At this time Aramean raiders had invaded the land of Israel, and among their captives was a young girl who had been given to Naaman's wife as a maid. <sup>3</sup>One day the girl said to her mistress, "I wish my master would go to see the prophet in Samaria. He would heal him of his leprosy." <sup>4</sup>So Naaman told the king what the young girl from Israel had said. <sup>5</sup>"Go and visit the prophet," the king of Aram told him. "I will send a letter of introduction for you to take to the king of Israel." So Naaman started out, carrying as gifts 750 pounds of silver, 150 pounds of gold, and ten sets of clothing. <sup>6</sup>The letter to the king of Israel said: "With this letter I present my servant Naaman. I want you to heal him of his leprosy." <sup>7</sup>When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes in dismay and said, "Am I God, that I can give life and take it away? Why is this man asking me to heal someone with leprosy? I can see that he's just trying to pick a fight with me." <sup>8</sup>But when Elisha, the man of God, heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes in dismay, he sent this message to him: "Why are you so upset? Send Naaman to me, and he will learn that there is a true prophet here in Israel." <sup>9</sup>So Naaman went with his horses and chariots and waited at the door of Elisha's house. <sup>10</sup>But Elisha sent a messenger out to him with this message: "Go and wash yourself seven times in the Jordan River. Then your skin will be restored, and you will be healed of your leprosy." <sup>11</sup>But Naaman became angry and stalked away. "I thought he would certainly come out to meet me!" he said. "I expected him to wave his hand over the leprosy and call on the name of the LORD his God and heal me!" <sup>12</sup>Aren't the rivers of Damascus, the Abana and the Pharpar, better than any of the rivers of Israel? Why shouldn't I wash in them and be healed?" So Naaman turned and went away in a rage. <sup>13</sup>But his officers tried to reason with him and said, "Sir, if the prophet had told you to do something very difficult, wouldn't you have done it? So you should certainly obey him when he says simply, 'Go and wash and be cured!'" <sup>14</sup>So Naaman went down to the Jordan River and dipped himself seven times, as the man of God had instructed him. And his skin became as healthy as the skin of a young child, and he was healed!

"Naaman...had won great victories...and was a mighty warrior; but...he suffered from leprosy."  
Vs.1

(Insert picture of a person with leprosy)

- In the Bible, leprosy is a **symbol** of sin.

(Insert map of ancient Middle East, showing at least

from Damascus to the north, to the Dead Sea in the south)

"Why are you so upset? Send Naaman to me, and he will learn that there is a true prophet here in Israel." Vs.8b

- Naaman went to the **wrong** man and the **wrong** place with his request.

"So Naaman turned and went away in a rage."  
Vs.12c

"I thought he would certainly come out to meet me! I expected him to wave his hand over the leprosy and call on the name of the Lord his God and heal me!" vs.11b

Naaman made two mistakes:

1. **Over-valuing** who he was.
  - The common denominator as God sees us: we are **all sinners**, lost and undone.
  - The key to this passage: God calls me to obey **at all times!**

"If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." Romans 10:9

(Bring the following up one line at a time A, B, C)

The Plan of Salvation:

- A – admit that I'm a sinner in need of a Savior.
- B – believe that Jesus is the only available Savior.
- C – choose to place my trust in Jesus Christ alone for my salvation.

2. He **didn't like** the prescription.

“Sir, if the prophet had told you to do something very difficult, wouldn’t you have done it?” vs.13b

Three things I must do if I want God to work miraculously in my life:

1. **Humble myself** before God.
2. Put aside the uniform of my **self-righteousness**.
3. **Obey**.

“And his skin became as healthy as the skin of a young child’s, and he was healed! Vs.14b