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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

A1545 ~ Naaman Healed of Leprosy.

Welcome to Bible Adventures. Help for today. Hope for tomorrow. Jesus is Lord of all.

Have you heard of an illness called leprosy? Leprosy is caused by bacteria inactive in the body for up to five years before any symptoms show. Then the person notices muscle weakness, skin rashes and white patches appearing, and eye problems. If untreated, it then affects the nerves in the hands and feet so that feeling in one's fingers and toes is lost. A person with dead nerves in their hands may pick up something very hot but feel no pain. When this happens, the person receives bad flesh wounds that need good care to avoid infection.

People in poor communities around the world dread getting leprosy as it carries a social stigma with it. Communities are generally reluctant to accept people with disabilities and deformities. Modern drugs, however, can cure leprosy if it is caught in the early stages and before the nerve damage becomes severe. If nerve damage occurs, then expensive corrective surgery is needed to help the sufferer. People's fear of getting leprosy can be a powerful motivator for families to abandon a sick member, leaving them to fend for themselves. Eighty percent of people affected by leprosy can't find work to support themselves. So they are often outcast and very poor.

At the time of today's *Bible Adventure*, Naaman was the commander of the Syrian army and he had become a victim to leprosy. Syria had been sending raiding parties into Israelite territory to steal food, farm animals and even people as slaves. One little girl who was captured in a raid became a servant in Naaman's own house.

Despite the girl's desire to return to her own family, she worked faithfully for her new owners. She spoke of the prophet of God in Samaria and how he could cure Naaman of his leprosy. At first, Naaman doubted there was any help for his disease but in time, the little girl gave him new hope of being cured. This turn around is recorded in the Old Testament book of 2 Kings, Chapter 5.

DRAMA - [The Bible In Living Sound.](#)

Naaman had developed hope that the prophet of Israel's God could cure him of his leprosy. When his courage was strong, Naaman approached the King of Syria for permission to visit the prophet in Israel. The king granted Naaman's request.

As an important person in his country, Naaman expected to be treated the same when visiting Israel. Oddly, he didn't feel afraid that the Israelites would take revenge on him for the loss of their animals and people. Although the Syrians had raided Israelite towns close to the border, the two countries were not officially at war.

Naaman's young Israelite slave girl is a good example of how to do all the little things in life well. If we are not faithful in doing the small things well, how can we expect to be given greater things to do? We must live each day doing our best at everything, remembering that we can only please God if we live in Christ's strength and believe in His truth. Temptation to do sloppy work can invade our minds, saying, "Near enough is good enough," but we must resist with a counter attitude that wants to bring glory and honour to God in everything we say and do.

When the king of Israel sent Naaman to Elisha's house, Naaman expected to be met by Elisha in person and treated royally. But Elisha refused to meet with Naaman; he just sent a message instead. This put-down caused Naaman to react very badly. He flew into a rage and refused to do what Elisha told him to do. Sometimes we too, can find ourselves in unexpected circumstances and react negatively just like Naaman did.

The Lord Jesus Christ lived here on earth with inner serenity and spiritual poise. As Christians, we need to develop this through the guidance of God's Holy Spirit. When filled and controlled by the Holy Spirit, we won't be thrown off-guard and say things we shouldn't when an upset happens. The most powerful form of evangelism is when our words and lifestyle match. If they don't, our Christianity appears as words only.

We long for our world to be free from pain. No one particularly enjoys pain and suffering but God's intention is to bring good things out of these stressful events. Physical pain is the body's way of warning us that there is a problem that needs help. Mental pain and suffering may be God's way to draw a person closer to Himself.

In the tough times, we need to rely on God to guide us in the way He wants us to go. The life of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is an anchor to hold us by God's power, provisions and promises. The circumstances of our lives may change but our future is as secure as the character of God Himself. No matter what terrible thing happens, those who trust in God hope in His promises and expect them all to come true. When we're convinced we are in God's hands, we can be very sure that no one or no difficult circumstances can take us out of them.

When Naaman's servants spoke to him about how easy it was to follow Elisha's instructions, Naaman reconsidered the prophet's words and obeyed them. He washed seven times in the dirty Jordan River. When arising from the water the seventh time he was healed of his leprosy, Naaman rejoiced over the miracle God had just done for him. He promptly returned to Elisha's house to thank him, but this time, in humbleness and meekness.

Why is it so very important to obey what God says? God's commandments are not heavy duties if we love Him but pathways to joyful, meaningful and satisfying lives. Obeying God is the only way to stay in fellowship with Him and receiving God's benefits. The Lord Jesus said in John's Gospel, Chapter 14: "If you love Me, obey my commandments."

God's call for your obedience is based on His own commitment to your well-being. Since God is the Creator of life, He knows how life works – even if the world is full of sin. Obedience shows your thankfulness for all that God has done for you. It shows your willingness to follow through on what He says. And it also shows your trust in God's way being best for you, with your desire to be in close relationship with Him.

Obedience is motivated by faith and thankfulness, but obedience itself is not the way to heaven; only faith in Jesus Christ as Saviour will do this. Obedience is the result of faith; it's not the pathway to faith.

Naaman was very glad he obeyed what Elisha said. His skin was brand new and his heart refreshed and joyful. You will be glad too if you hope in the work Jesus did on the cross in making amends for your sin. No one can pay for their own sin. The price is far beyond what anyone can pay. But God has made His instructions simple so that even little children can trust and believe. Have faith in Jesus! He and He alone can wash and clean you from all your sin. Just humbly ask now! He is waiting to receive you and fill you with rejoicing.

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.

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