

THE COST OF GOING OFF

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2 KINGS 5:1–4, 9–14 (NIV)

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.

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."

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."

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 DO YOU DO WHEN YOU GET MAD?

"People with understanding control their anger; a hot temper shows great foolishness."
Proverbs 14:29 (NLT)

"Be angry, and do not sin": do not let the sun go down on your wrath."
Ephesians 4:26 (NKJV)

Naaman was commander of the army of the king of Aram. He was a great man, highly regarded, valiant soldier, but he has leprosy. 2 Kings 5:1

1) STATUS _____ SUFFERING

The first thing we find out about Namaan is his status. His ranking. His position. His victories and his achievements. He has status!

We live in a society that is obsessed with status.

2) SERVANTS ALWAYS _____ MIRACLES

The servant girl initiated the entire miracle. Be careful who you look down upon, because servants will always start miracles.

He is raging because of the gap between what he was experiencing and what he was expecting. I thought he would come out to me and wave his hand and call on the name of the Lord... other waters

He's angry because life has not turned out the way he expected. So he goes off!

Namaan's servant spoke up... the highly decorated soldier is rescued by his servants... servants always start miracles.

3) SIMPLE _____ IS STRENGTH

Sometimes we perceive obedience to God as some test designed just to see if we're really committed to Him.

But what if it's designed as God's way of giving us what's best for us?