

# From The Pulpit

by Rev. Donald M. Clark

LED by HIM  
(Emphasis on Purpose)

Text: "And it was so, when Elisha the man of God had heard that the king of Israel had rent his clothes, that he sent to the king, saying, Wherefore hast thou rent thy clothes? Let him come now to me, and he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel." (2 Kings 5:14.8)

THE SUNSHINE AND THE SHADOWS in the providences of God are constantly working out a Divine purpose in our redemption. Here was a big man with a big disease. Leprosy is painful and it produces melancholy. The same things can be said about sin in one's life. Whether it is leprosy or sin, the cure can be found in none other than God. The purpose of God unfolded in Naaman's life. He came in contact with God through the life of the little maid in his home, and in the ministry of Elisha in the land of Israel and with the cure of God in the Jordan River of Palestine.



REV. D. M. CLARK

With the purposes of God working for us favorably in a redemptive way, we need never despair. God has set up a twenty-four-hour-a-day ministry to us through Christ. God did not overlook or forget Naaman and neither will He forget us.

Take a look at the man of our story. He was captain of the host of the King of Syria. He was a great man with his master. He was honorable, for the Lord had given Syria deliverance through him. He was a mighty man of valor. But the five dark words, "he was a leper," seemed to destroy the brightness of the man's whole life.

No political power could remove the malady. No military strategy could give him deliverance. No territorial administration could give him a healing salve. The best Syrian physician, the best surgeon, the best advice gave him no help.

THERE IS THE TESTIMONY given by a converted Chinese that runs like this: Before his conversion it was as though he were in a deep pit. Confucius came by the pit and looking in said, "If you get out, be careful not to get in again." Buddha came by and said, "If you come up part way, I will help you." But Jesus came his way and with loving kindness lifted him out of the deep pit and sent him on his way rejoicing.

May we pause here long enough to call attention to the fact that man has an infection in his nature. This infection is deadly and incurable outside of Christ. The human nature needs medical attention; that is, the higher medicine of the Great Physician. God has provided this medicine. There is a balm in Gilead and there is a physician there. Gilead is the Church and the balm is the medicine of the Gospel.

Man has deposits of poison in his being. The sting of sin, like the sting of a bee, leaves that deposit of poison. This infection or poison is contagious. Others are infected. Man is possessed by a hostile nature toward God and the cure. Man has a propensity away from God.

GOOD SAMARITAN--Mrs. Irene Ward (right) headed drive to collect burial expenses for Allie Mae Williams following her recent untimely death. Mrs. Clark and Miss Williams were members of a prayer group that visited local homes. Services for Miss Williams were conducted by Rev. F. N. Addison at New Jerusalem Baptist Church. Interment in Woodlawn Cemetery was supervised by Bunker Bros.



These symptoms showed up in Naaman. He got angry at God, at the preacher and at the method of cure. Man is at war with God although he is dangerously blighted with an incurable malady. The evil infection fills the mind with fumes and the spirit with gall. The venom of sin is infected by Satan but it is ejected by the Saviour.

The little maid from the land of Israel said, "Would God my lord were with the prophet that is in Samaria, for he would recover him of his leprosy." Physical cure and spiritual redemption are in that word "recover".

There is little doubt that pious parents and religious training gave the little maid these words of direction and good counsel. Here we see the mystery of Divine providence at work. Here is redemption expressed in 20 words. The Bible is full of Divine directions. What grace and gladness there was to come out of this timely suggestion!

NAAMAN WAS THE RECIPIENT of the Divine attention, the Divine affection and the Divine advice. He was in the grip of a bad disease. He was also influenced by the power of a good life in the little maid. God's purpose was unfolding in another life. God's direction came to him to leave the old and receive the new. He left Syria and came to Israel. He left the Syrian system of worship and accepted the worship of Israel. He crossed the boundary separating the old from the new, and was blessed by life's new-found realities.

Naaman came first to the palace with the letter from his king. There was no help from that direction. The king of Israel flew into a rage and accused Syria of using this incident to start a war. But Naaman finally went to the parsonage. Elisha had sent word to Naaman saying, "Let him come now to me." . . . "So Naaman came with his horses and chariot and stood at the door of the house of Elisha."

The prophet's directions were short and to the point. "Go and wash in Jordan seven times, and thy flesh shall come again to thee, and thou shalt be clean." But Naaman's evil nature boiled over. He was wroth and went away in a rage. He thought that Elisha should have come out to him and called on the name of the Lord and struck his hand over the place. He spoke scornfully of all the waters of Israel, not realizing that the Jordan had been called "The Glory of All Lands." Naaman was expecting his deliverance through a ceremony. We can't be cured

through a ceremony. Man and God often do not agree. Man must learn to take God's deliverance on God's terms.

Elisha had directed his guest to go wash and be clean. God demanded action in the word "go." God asked the leper to accept Jordan as the means for the cure. God expected Naaman to carry out His advice in dipping himself seven times in the water. God pledged the certainty of the cure.

God is the author of Life, of Health and of Salvation. These ministries reach us and bless us from the Divine power, when we accept the Divine will. God put healing power in the muddy waters of Jordan. God has put saving power in the blood of Christ. When we take Christ on God's terms we get blessed results.

"Then he went down and dipped himself seven times in Jordan according to the saying of the man of God AND HE WAS CLEAN!"

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WE ARE REVISING our Church Directory in order to add churches not now included and to up-date information on churches listed previously. We would appreciate all ministers in this area with predominantly colored congregations to assist us in this endeavor. If your church has not been listed, please let us have the DENOMINATION of the church, the NAME of the church, the NAME of the pastor, a PHONE NUMBER where the pastor may be reached, and the ADDRESS of the church. If your church is incorrectly or incompletely listed in any of these respects, please send the necessary changes or additions to: Las Vegas VOICE, 958 West Owens Ave., Las Vegas, Nev. Thank you.

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