The Greatest Among You

Tony Mauck · 2 Kings 5:1–14

INTRODUCTION

- In what specific ways do you serve others? How frequently? How extensively? Do you serve them in the highest ways possible? Or is most of your life mostly about you?
- He says, the greatest among you shall be your servant. Whoever wishes to be first among you shall be slave of all.

1 Naaman Was a Great Man, but a Leper

2 Kings 5:1–14

- Naaman, captain of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man with his master.
- The man was also a valiant warrior, but he was a leper.
- 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.
- My father, had the prophet told you to do some great thing, would you not have done it? How much more then when he says to you, wash and be clean?

2 Points We Learn in the Story of Naaman

Hebrews 10:22

- Number one, God has a plan for the Gentiles.
- The concept of cleansing by water is found in the story of Naaman. And cleansing by faith.
- There wasn't anything special about the water. It was special because God made it so. This is a perfect illustration of salvation by grace through faith.
- Naaman would have to humble himself to accept God's means of provision. And we must humble ourselves to embrace God's provision for us.

3 The Role of Servants in the Story

- First, there was the servant girl of Naaman's wife who possessed the answers that he needed.
- We have the answers that people need. Our job is to dispense that message when we have the opportunity.
- Then there was the servant of Elisha. His messenger, no doubt, sent out as much for the humbling of Naaman than anything else.
- And then there's Naaman's servants. Heroes of this story.

4 How Important Is Your Service?

Romans 10:17; 1 Peter 3:8–9; Hebrews 6:10

- Does Naaman ever get to the cleansing without all of these servants in the story? How important is service? How important is your service?
- The Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve.
- Small acts of service where I set aside myself for the betterment, the upbuilding, the encouragement, the salvation of others.
- It doesn't have to be some great thing. It doesn't have to be something that someone else notices and pats you on the back for.

5 Learn to Serve as He Did

- We will never truly be Christians until we learn to serve as He did.
- You know how you convert the world? One person at a time.
- What about choosing the home instead as a training ground of learning to be a servant? How can I serve other members of my household?
- That's the example of Jesus. That's what he means when he says, love your enemies. Pray for those who persecute you.

6 This Is the Lord's Day: Serving in Worship

- This is the Lord's day. It's not my day.
- We're serving each other. We're bolstering or strengthening our brother. By being here, by participating in this way.
- If we don't have the attitude of the servant, we'll see this as drudgery.
- Be hospitable to one another without complaint. That's all about service.

THE CHALLENGE

I'm going to set myself aside this week, and I'm going to serve someone. And I'm going to serve my spouse. In some small way. Because self will ruin us, folks.

MY NOTES