



The Mar Thoma Church Diocese of North America & Europe Christian Education Forum

Lenten Meditations

HEALING OF NAAMAN

2 Kings 5:1-19

This is one of the thought provoking stories in the book of Kings.

Naaman was the chief military commander of the Aramean Army. He is referred as a 'great man' and a 'man of Victory'. At the same time, in spite of all his accomplishments and greatness, he had a problem. Naaman was a victim of the most dreaded disease, Leprosy. Leper was considered unclean and was isolated from society. This points to the vulnerability of life. Even in the midst of our success and achievements there are chances for afflictions. Illness and pain are realities in human life, but our attitude to life in times of afflictions is most important.

Healing – God uses an insignificant captive girl

The role of the captive girl who was weak and insignificant is very crucial. The healing of this 'great man' came through a 'young girl' from Israel. The captive brought hope for the Captor. The young girl's proposal makes it all the way to the curing of a terrible affliction. Slave girl instead of seeing the impossibility of the situation, saw its possibility. When we face or go through various painful situations, are we able to see possibilities in the midst of impossible circumstances?

Healing – God uses strange ways

Health and Healing are God's gifts. God can restore us in various ways. At first, Elisha's instruction sounded ridiculous to Naaman, and his pride was wounded. He expected something dramatic. But healing comes to him through the word of a prophet, which was conveyed to him by a messenger. This is the way God cleanse Naaman from his afflictions, not through dramatic performance of a human healer, but as a gift for simple act of obedience. We feel restoration which comes mysteriously when we submit to God's own script and not our own. Thus holistic healing is not just performing some miracles in a dramatic way but a re-orientation of our self in obedience to the divine will.

Illness and afflictions are realities of the world. We cannot avoid such situations always. Despite advances in modern medicine our health is worse today than ever before in our history! There is no doubt that sickness affects us directly, causing untold suffering and hardship. Here our response to situations and attitude to life and God matter. Healing is beyond the removal of symptoms. It is the re-orientation of self in obedience to God and His will.

Prayer: O Lord, help us to discern your will and transform our life in obedience to you. Amen

Dr. Reena Geevarghese

"...and his flesh was restored and became clean like that of a young boy"

- 2 Kings 5:14