

2002 Proclaimer

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, .. to proclaim the favorable year of the Lord!" - Isa. 61:1-2

A teaching and exhortation medium by members of the Carmichael Church of Christ, meeting at 6044 Sutter Ave. Carmichael, CA 95608

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January 27th, 2002

LESSONS FROM A LEPER

By David A. Sargent

Naaman was a very successful man. He was commander of the Syrian army, a great and honorable man in the eyes of his king, a victorious general, and a mighty man of valor. But, he had a terrible disease, **leprosy!** Please read **2 Kings 5:1-14** concerning Naaman.

Naaman learned from a young Israelite slave girl that there was a prophet in Israel who could heal him of his leprosy. As we read the account of how Naaman sought a cure for his leprosy, we may learn some valuable lessons about our own need for cleansing from an even greater malady than leprosy, that is *sin*.

Naaman thought his healing could be purchased. When the King of Syria granted him permission to go to Israel, Naaman *"took with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten changes of clothing"* (**2 Kings 5:5**). Apparently he thought he could pay someone in Israel to heal him.

Like Naaman, we cannot purchase our cleansing from sin. However, a price must be paid for our redemption, but not with *"corruptible things, like silver or gold"* (**1 Peter 1:18**). Christ paid the price for our redemption on the cross. The Apostle Peter states that Christians have been redeemed *"with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot"* (**1 Peter 1:19**). --- Cont'd on page 2

Naaman had an idea about how he thought his healing would take place.

He said to himself, *"He will surely come out to me, and stand and call on the*

name of the LORD his God, and wave his hand over the place, and heal the leprosy" (**2 Kings 5:11**). When the servant of Elisha the prophet told him to go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and his flesh would be restored and he would be clean (**v. 10**), he became furious. His preconceived ideas concerning his healing were wrong.

When it comes to our own cleansing from sin, we must also seek God's instructions instead of what we might think would work. We must not approach God's word seeking to justify our current beliefs; rather, we must seek to know God's will through His word, and believe His word.

Naaman tried to substitute his own terms of obedience instead of the Lord's. He did not want to wash in the Jordan River. He asked, "Are not the Abanah and the Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?" So he turned and went away in a rage" (**2 Kings 5:12** NKJV).

We must never try to substitute our own doctrines in the place of the teaching of God's word. Only through our obedience to His commands may we ever have the blessings attached to them.

Finally, Naaman humbled himself and obeyed the Lord's instructions.

Naaman could see no logical connection between dipping in the Jordan River and being cured of his leprosy, but he obeyed. Obedience brought its reward – Naaman was healed.

A penitent believer in Christ may not see the logical connection between being baptized (immersed) in water and having his sins washed away (**Acts 2:38; 22:16**). Certainly, as in the case of Naaman, it is not the water that saves. It is God who saves us, when we obey Him.

Obedience has its reward: **the cleansing of our sins.** ###

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PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR:

Melissa Baty, unborn baby problems
Carlene Courtney, Jo's sister, ongoing ailments
Helen Gray, cancer treatments & pain management
Annie Holland, Rena's daughter – chemo treatments
Willa Lockett with ongoing physical deterioration
Lela Mackey, Lucy's mom, old age ailments
Clifford Marshall at home after a light stroke
Aaron Robertson begins active duty next week
Norma Romine, cancer, with radiation
Velma Stewart, Ron's mother, with alzheimer's
Brandon Thruston, cancer treatment has resumed
Nancy Valine lost sister this past week.
Evie Westphal – chemo treatments & pain control
Rachel Johnston, Barbara Sterling, Debi Gaines (all with cancer and attendant treatments)

Oliver & Terri Sasse OT this weekend
Bob & Melanie Sadler OT this weekend

GUEST SPEAKER **TONIGHT AT 6:00**

Don Wilson from Loomis
"A Proper Application of
Romans 14"

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NEXT SUNDAY AT 5 PM **Elders-Deacons Meeting**

1. Deacons report on 2001 job chores
2. Financial stability of this work
3. New Opportunities to consider
4. Teaching program of the congregation

Kids Kids Kids

Enjoy Them While (if) You Can!

Ever notice that a human baby doesn't walk until it's tall enough to reach a parent's hand?

Cleaning your house while your kids are still growing is like clearing the drive before it has stopped snowing.

"There is only one pretty child in the world and every parent has it."- Chinese Proverb.

Mothers of teens know why animals eat their young.

I asked Mom if I were a gifted child ...she said they certainly wouldn't have paid for me.

Children are natural mimics, who act like their parents despite every effort to teach them good manners.

Children will soon forget your presents, but they will always remember your presence.

Children seldom misquote you. In fact, they usually repeat word for word what you shouldn't have said.

Becoming aware of my character defects leads me naturally to the next step of blaming my parents.

We did have to childproof our home about 3 years ago ... but somehow they still get in!

Grandchildren are God's reward for not killing your children.

Who are all these kids and why are they calling me "Mom"?

It's been established: insanity is hereditary. You get it from your kids.

It has been said that you can fool some of the people all of the time and all of the people some of the time, but you can never fool a Mom.

I love to give homemade gifts ... which one of my kids do you want?

A child's greatest period of growth is the month after you've purchased new school clothes.

Anyone who says 'Easy as taking candy from a baby' has never tried it.

Children: You spend the first 2 years of their life teaching them to walk and talk. Then you spend the next 16 telling them to sit down and be quiet.

The best inheritance parents can give their children is a few minutes of their time each day.

TAKING THE EASY WAY OUT

1 Sam 24:1-7

INTRODUCTION:

- A. In the text, David and his men are looking at things differently.
 - 1. David respected Saul's anointing by the Lord, and that he was God's king!
 - 2. David's men just wanted to get rid of Saul in the best and fastest way!
- B. The Bible also gives us Other Examples Of Godly people having opportunities to Use Wrong, Worldly Means to obtain RIGHT GOALS. (or, Taking the Easy Way Out)

I. THE NEW TESTAMENT WARNS US TO FOLLOW THE PATTERNS GOD HAS SET FOR OUR PLEASING SERVICE.

- A. Many examples are very pointed in showing us what God wants!
 - 1. Stephen points to the pattern when Jews fail to submit to Christ. **Acts 7:44**
 - 2. Paul notes godly patterns to be exemplified in brethren: **Phil 3:17; 2 Tim 1:13**
- B. We cannot have acceptable success apart from God's patterns! **1 Cor 4:6**
 - 1. David knew this principle, but had to learn it again when moving the ark.
 - 2. It should behoove us to also be impressed with this truth!

II. SOME TRY THE EASY WAYS TO SUCCESS/WEALTH IN BUSINESS RATHER THAN THE PRUDENT WAY OF STEADY, HONEST TOIL.

- A. Like Lot, many seem to think that a **SELFISH, *serve-me-first-attitude*** is the way.
- B. The best way is still the simple tedious way of hard work. **Prov 28:19-20**
- C. We must include God as we avoid mistakes like the rich farmer in **Luke 12**.

II. MANY WANT TO TRY "EASY WAYS" TO MORAL PERFECTION

- A. There are definitely NO EASY WAYS!
 - 1. Benjamin Franklin discovered and acknowledged it takes work to seek and maintain moral perfection.
 - 2. "CONTRARY HABITS MUST BE BROKEN AND GOOD ONES ACQUIRED AND ESTABLISHED before we can have **a steady and uniform rectitude of conduct.**"
- B. Some have tried **sleep learning**, or other means of learning without effort!
 - 1. There's no easy way out of reading, studying and TESTING!
 - 2. Worthwhile results must be preceded by adequate efforts!

III. WE CAN BE GUILTY OF TAKING THE EASY WAY OUT IN RAISING CHILDREN!

- A. Many want to default to the easier way that demands no strict guidance, no discipline, no exemplary parenting, and no consistency.
- B. Our children will pick up on our moral virtues if we are not hypocritical.
- C. Our responsibility to our children, and their responsibilities are set in patterns given in **Eph 6:1-4** and **Colossians 3:20-21**

CONCLUSION:

- A. We must, as the Hebrew children, grow up with the basic thought of **Exodus 6:7**
 - 1. God has relieved us from our sinful lives, that we might be at peace with HIM!
 - 2. IT WAS NOT EASY FOR GOD: ***it cost the life of His only begotten Son***
- B. God insists on accurate and well-defined obedience in serving Him! **Matt 7:21**
- C. Again, we can see that ideas regarding proper procedure ***varied widely*** when considered by men of different spiritual stature! **1 Cor 2:13-14**