

“At this time Aramean raiders had invaded the land of Israel, and among their captives was a young girl who had been given to Naaman’s wife as a maid. One day the girl said to her mistress, “I wish my master would go to see the prophet in Samaria. He would heal him of his leprosy.” 2 Kings 5:2-3 NLT

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This amazing story all starts with a Aramean commander who contracts a death sentence (a communicable skin disease) and a young girl (who was captured and enslaved). Why is a gentile, who gets sick, even in this story? Why would Jeremiah care about recording a gentile story at all? Because it was a threaded foretelling of God’s grace reaching out to ALL people. When I read about the compassion and courage of this no-name, young girl (she may have been up to 13yrs old), I really would like to meet her parents. They really did a great job giving their daughter a foundation of safety, love and a skill set to not only endure captivity, but to reach outside of herself and speak when she hears of the tragic news of the master of the house. Why wouldn’t she just want her captive to die or the justice of God to judge him? How much was riding on that comment, “He [the prophet] would heal him”? I’ll get the whole story in heaven, but for now, I can just imagine what it took to say something when you see something! A friend of mine did a sermon about this story because it here were seven people who were involved in Naaman getting healed by God and coming to a confession that Jehovah is the one true God. But it was all initiated with one young girl who used her faith to help her captor. Wouldn’t you want to raise your daughters and your sons to be that brave, that confident in the faith that they share it, even with their enemies?

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Dad,

Is it okay that I’m a little intimidated by the faith of this young Jewish girl? She had so much courage and so much faith that she gave Naaman the best tip of his life - go see the man of God! Wow. That I could have a faith like that for people (loud neighbors, grumpy church folk) that I would share and believe for them. I’ll try to be more brave the next time I come across someone that annoys me.

contemplatio

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root