

“Reversing Incurable Consequences”

2 Kings 5:1-17

Introduction

In 2 Kings chapter 5, a man by the name of Naaman had a problem for which there was no human solution. He had leprosy, an incurable disease that eats away at your skin until it completely destroys you. Naaman had a lot of things going for him; he had a great job with a great income. However this disease unilaterally overruled everything and made it impossible for him to continue with a normal life. This disease made Naaman unclean in his society. Because leprosy is a communicable disease, it also affected Naaman socially and emotionally. Just as Naaman suffered from an incurable disease that affected and infiltrated every area of his life, we too can experience an incurable consequence. A consequence that may appear hopeless, while it infiltrates every area of our lives.

Naaman wanted a cure for his disease but could find nothing to fix his problem. A seemingly insignificant slave girl came up with the idea of visiting the prophet. While Naaman was willing to solve his problem by spending money or by wielding power in going to see the king, riches or government could not fix his problem. The answer to Naaman’s problem was to be found through spiritual means and would come when Naaman prioritized humility over pride. Elijah, the prophet told Naaman to go submerge himself in the Jordan River. Naaman did not initially accept that solution. He felt it was below his dignity. However, Naaman’s problem could only be solved by following the word of God delivered through the man of God.

Believers must know that the cure for incurable consequences comes when obedience is prioritized over disobedience. Obedience requires humility and it’s not always easy. At times, doing things God’s way may not seem to make sense, but what matters is that obedience is God’s solution. Remember, God’s wisdom will often conflict with the wisdom of men. (1 Corinthians 1:27) God has the power to “flip the script” on situations in your life that don’t seem to have a solution. Nothing is impossible with God. (Luke 1:37) Naaman found this to be true once he decided to be obedient. Then Naaman experienced healing from leprosy and a total reversal in his view of God. Naaman claimed Elijah’s God to be the only true God. In the same way, God wants you to see that He alone is the only One that deserves to be worshipped. He’s in a class all by Himself.

Getting Started

1. Are you facing any incurable consequences which have infiltrated every area of your life?
2. What might be hindering your reversal amidst this incurable consequence?

Let’s Get Personal

1. Have you limited God in your expectations of what He can or cannot cure in your life? Were you encouraged to believe that there is hope for your incurable consequence?
2. Have you ever had to obey God when obedience seemed foolish? What has “going to the Jordan” looked like in your life?
3. Has God ever cured a consequence in your life? What did you learn about God through that experience?

Take the Next Step

1. What can you do to correctly position yourself under God’s authority? How can you humble yourself before Him?
2. Are you struggling because you feel as if, even in your obedience, God has not answered or moved on your behalf? What peace or reassurance can you gain from the Scripture? 2 Timothy 1:12, Psalm 25:3, Luke 1:37, Job 42:2, Psalm 33:11, Jeremiah 29:11, John 16:33, Isaiah 12:2, Psalm 46:10.
3. Is there anyone in your group who needs God’s spiritual intervention? Spend time in prayer asking God to do what appears to be no human solution for. Discuss how you might be supportive of one another.
4. Want to go deeper? Take time to review these Scriptures: 1 Peter 5:5-6, Proverbs 14:12, Matthew 19:26, and 1 Corinthians 1:25.

Renew Your Mind

“Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.” 1 Corinthians 1:25