June 27, 2010

New Skin

2 Kings 5:1-19

¹Now Naaman, captain of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man

with his master, and highly respected, because by him the Lord had given

victory to Aram. The man was also a valiant warrior, but he was a leper.

²Now the Arameans had gone out in bands and had taken captive a little

girl from the land of Israel; and she waited on Naaman's wife.

³She said to her mistress, "I wish that my master were with the prophet who

is in Samaria! Then he would cure him of his leprosy."

⁴Naaman went in and told his master, saying, "Thus and thus spoke the girl

who is from the land of Israel."

⁵Then the king of Aram said, "Go now, and I will send a letter to the king of

Israel." He departed and took with him ten talents of silver and six thousand

shekels of gold and ten changes of clothes.

⁶He brought the letter to the king of Israel, saying, "And now as this letter

comes to you, behold, I have sent Naaman my servant to you, that you

may cure him of his leprosy."

⁷When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said. "Am I

God, to kill and to make alive, that this man is sending word to me to cure a

man of his leprosy? But consider now, and see how he is seeking a quarrel

against me."

⁸It happened when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had

torn his clothes, that he sent word to the king, saying,

"Why have you torn your clothes? Now let him come to me, and he shall know

that there is a prophet in Israel."

⁹So Naaman came with his horses and his chariots and stood at the

doorway of the house of Elisha.

¹⁰Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go and wash in the Jordan seven

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¹⁵When he returned to the man of God with all his company, and came and stood before him, he said, "Behold now, I know that there is no God in all the earth, but in Israel; so please take a present from your servant now."

¹⁶But he said, "As the Lord lives, before whom I stand, I will take nothing." And he urged him to take it, but he refused.

¹⁷Naaman said, "If not, please let your servant at least be given two mules' load of earth; for your servant will no longer offer burnt offering nor will he sacrifice to other gods, but to the Lord.

¹⁸"In this matter may the Lord pardon your servant: when my master goes into the house of Rimmon to worship there, and he leans on my hand and I bow myself in the house of Rimmon, when I bow myself in the house of Rimmon, the Lord pardon your servant in this matter."

¹⁹He said to him, "Go in peace." So he departed from him some distance.

Mark 1:40-45

⁴⁰And a leper came to Jesus, beseeching Him and falling on his knees before Him, and saying, "If You are willing, You can make me clean."

⁴¹Moved with compassion, Jesus stretched out His hand and touched him, and said to him, "I am willing; be cleansed."

⁴²Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cleansed.

⁴³And He sternly warned him and immediately sent him away,

⁴⁴and He said to him, "See that you say nothing to anyone; but go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, as a testimony to them."

⁴⁵But he went out and began to proclaim it freely and to spread the news around, to such an extent that Jesus could no longer publicly enter a city, but stayed out in unpopulated areas; and they were coming to Him from everywhere.

Luke 4:27

And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of Elisha the prophet; and none of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian.

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