

Just Do It!
II Kings 5:12-13

Introduction:

- I. Among some of the most well-known events recorded in the Bible is the account of Naaman and his leprosy.
 - a. His wife was told by a young girl, “If he were with the prophet who is in Samaria, he would cure him of his leprosy!”
- II. I’m sure you remember the story:
 - a. He sends a letter to the *king* of Israel rather than the *prophet* (v. 6)
 - b. Elisha comforts the king and says, “Let him come now to me, that he may know there is a prophet in Israel” (v. 8) – This was his access to God!
 - c. Elisha tells Naaman to dip in the Jordan River seven times (**baptizw**) and he would be clean (v. 10).
 - i. This is the one time that the Greek Old Testament contains the word “Baptize.”
 - d. Then we come to our text for today, which _____ read for us.
- III. The truth is that many people are like Naaman.
 - a. They believe that God has something great in store for them and their lives, yet when he calls them to do something simple, it is met with arrogance—I’m not going to do THAT; or I know of a much better way!
 - b. Maybe you are like Naaman!

Discussion:

- I. Like Naaman in His Disease:
 - a. Leprosy is caused by a bacterial infection that disables your nervous system, causing numbness.
 - i. This numbness leads to an almost inevitable lack of concern for caring for the body (If it doesn’t hurt, why bother?), which leads to gangrene and physical deformities.
 - ii. I don’t want to be too graphic, but I feel like I need to tell you [about the boy who opened the rusty faucet]. The reason is that he felt no reservation about hurting his body like that, because he did not feel the pain! He was desensitized. The truth is that WE are causing the same nasty, gory, disgusting injuries to our souls!
 - b. Spiritually, our world is affected by leprosy—we are being desensitized by SIN!
 - i. It begins as something that hurts us, so we shoo it away, but it proceeds to deaden our sensitivity to bad language, violence, unauthorized sexual activity, unacceptable “alternate” lifestyles, and even in worship, to do things that God has not allowed!
 - ii. II Timothy 2:16-17 – avoid irreverent (disrespectful) babble (useless words), for it will lead to more and more ungodliness.
 1. It spreads like WHAT?

- iii. Ephesians 4:29 – Let no corrupting (bad, evil, rotten) talk come out of your mouths, but ONLY such as is good for building up, what fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.
 - 1. This includes cursing, perverted language, gossip, etc.
 - 2. These things cause our spirituality to rot with gangrene, leading to more unclean behavior.
- iv. I Corinthians 15:33-34 – Bad company ruins good morals (It desensitizes us).
 - 1. Also, what does alcohol do to the body? It slows down the nervous system, causing us to feel less (and for some, thus to feel better), move more slowly, react slowly, etc. This is the danger in drunk driving.
 - a. What about a soul that is intoxicated with sin? It cannot react to the harmful situations around it, it does not feel the pain, and thus does not attempt to get better.
 - b. Paul says for them to “Wake up from your drunken stupor, as is right, and do not go on sinning!”
 - i. We have work to do, and you are in no shape to do it until you wake up!

II. Like Naaman in His Reaction:

- a. You know the feeling when your arm or foot goes to sleep. You know the dread that you have of allowing the circulation back into that part of the body, as it begins to tingle, tickle, and perhaps hurt, to the threshold of being able to stand it!
 - i. This is similar to the feeling the audience in Acts 2 felt in verse 37.
 - ii. Imagine someone whose arm has fallen asleep, and for dread of that arm “waking up” and feeling that discomfort, the person just closes off circulation altogether. What will happen to that arm?
 - 1. The same thing happens when we refuse to set our lives right after recognizing that sin is desensitizing us!
 - 2. John 3:19-21 – Everyone who does evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.
 - a. Picture yourself early in the morning, asleep in your bed, and someone comes in and turns the light on in your face. What is your first reaction?
 - i. “I can see!!!”
 - ii. Or is it more like, “Turn that light off, or I’m going to get out of this bed and make you wish you had!”
 - iii. The darkness made our eyes sensitive to light, to the point that it hurts for that light to come on in the morning.
 - iv. Ephesians 5:6-8, 11 – It is time to wake up! Turn the lights on, shake the sleepiness out of your arm, and while you’re at it, turn on everyone else’s light, too! They may hate you for it at first, but if they bring themselves to get up and get going, they will appreciate you for it.

3. Think about that boy I told you about. He saw his disease as giving him superhuman strength, because he could press harder than anyone else without feeling pain.
 - a. How many people shy away from faith because they feel like it will make them weaker? “I want to make my decisions without feeling guilty and depressed.”
 - b. I don’t know about you, but I want to make decisions that will let me keep my arm—guilty or not, I like to be healthy!
 - i. Whether or not it hurts for a limb to wake up, or whether or not it hurts for a light to come on in the morning, we all agree that it is better to have that arm, and it is better to have light to see!
 - ii. We just fear the rush of sensitivity returning to us!

III. Like Naaman in His Cure:

- a. Naaman finally decided to be obedient to Elisha’s prescription. Although he could think of more beautiful, cleaner rivers, God’s (through the prophet) cure was the only one that would work.
 - i. Many people today look at God’s plan for salvation and find it foolish (they have for almost 2000 years). However, if we will just submit to his instruction, we will be cured of our leprosy of sin.
- b. Here is the totally unbelievable part: Naaman was told to dip (be baptized) seven times in the Jordan River. Today, you are told to be baptized only ONCE, and in WHATEVER water you have available! Why reject such an easy cure for the guilt of sin?
 - i. Acts 22:16 – Arise, be baptized, and wash away your sins, CALLING on the name of the Lord.
 - ii. What is this call to the Lord?
 1. I Peter 3:21 – Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you; not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an APPEAL to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ (It mirrors his burial and resurrection, right?)
 2. Romans 10:13 – Whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved—so HOW do they call on his name? – Acts 22:16
 3. Romans 10:14 – How will they call on him in whom they have not believed?
 4. Today, believe the gospel, and call on the name of the Lord through baptism, and you will be cleansed!
- c. If you have already been baptized, like I said, you are only told to do it once! However, if you have turned away from God’s way, your sins are taking root again, and left unchecked, you will fall back into that leprosy of sin.
 - i. I John 1:6-9 tells us how to keep ourselves clean.
 - ii. If you have need to confess your sins today to ask forgiveness of them, or if you need to be baptized into Christ to wash away your sins, stop making excuses, stop trying to find your own way out, stop being stubborn, and just DO what God has asked you to do, while we stand and sing.