

## Chapter 30      ONE LITTLE GIRL

### 2 Kings 5:1-19

Selected from these verses

*“Now Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Syria, was a great and honourable man in the eyes of his master...He was also a mighty man of valour, but he was a leper. And the Syrians had gone out on raids, and had brought back captive a young girl from the land of Israel. She waited on Naaman’s wife. Then she said to her mistress, ‘If only my master were with the prophet who is in Samaria for he would heal him of his leprosy.’”*

*And Naaman went in and told his master, saying, ‘Thus and thus said the girl who is from the land of Israel. “So the king of Syria said, ‘Go now, and I will send a letter to the king of Israel.’ So he (Naaman) departed...*

*Then he brought the letter to the king of Israel, which said, ‘Now be advised, when this letter comes to you, that I have sent Naaman my servant to you, that you may heal him of his leprosy.’” (2 Kings 5:1-6)*

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Can we picture this one little girl? She was taken by force from her family, her home, from all the familiar faces and surroundings that she knew. Suddenly the childhood security that this little girl knew had been snatched away and her life totally changed. She was now under orders as a servant in a foreign land. What pain she must have experienced in being separated from her loved ones, suffering the pangs of homesickness and loneliness in a totally changed life from that to which she had been accustomed.

Here we have an amazing story.

It was in this situation that this little girl shows concern for the well-being of her captor, Naaman, the husband of her mistress and she is prepared to do all she can to help him. This little girl puts her concern into action by speaking out, suggesting to her mistress that if Naaman would go to the prophet that is in Samaria he would *“heal him of his leprosy.”* (v.6)

It seems Naaman’s wife told her husband; Naaman heeded and approached his master, the king of Syria, saying *“thus and thus said the maid that is of the land of Israel.”* (v.4) Amazingly, the king of Syria immediately agreed and

personally prepared a letter to the king of Israel, saying that he was sending Naaman to him that “*you may heal him of his leprosy!*” (v.6)

In the remainder of this chapter, we read that after arriving at the home of Elisha the prophet, Naaman became indignant about being given instructions from Elisha via a messenger; pride in his position was injured. However, after first resisting the instructions he then humbled himself to obey.

Naaman did, indeed, receive healing from his leprosy, and, not only physical healing, for we see that he then proclaims his conviction that Israel’s God is truly God. God’s hand had been working to humble this pagan man of high position and to bring him into much more than physical healing.

Reflecting now on this little girl, it seems she didn’t think along the lines of how young she was, or that she was ‘just’ a captive maid. Instead, she turned her thinking to the greatness of her God; her faith was put into action and the result was that a life was changed, and it seems probable that many lives were changed.

This little girl’s understanding of God was that He sees and hears and cares, is merciful and Sovereign, able to do all things. She believed that God wanted her to care about any in need that He brought her into contact with; a little girl whose spirit was in tune with God and who did not allow fear of declaring her faith among unbelievers prevent her from speaking and acting.

In her situation, we see:-

- No sign of grumbling about her situation;
- No sign of resentment towards her captors

Truly, this little girl was ‘blooming where she was planted’, as the saying goes, seeking to honour God in circumstances not of her choice; accepting all as being God’s will and plan for her at this time. The fact that such importance was placed on her words by her captors surely reveals that she behaved respectfully and served well, resulting in her being held in such high esteem by her captors that these adults took serious notice of her words and even acted on them!

The courage and the loyalty that this ONE LITTLE GIRL displayed gave testimony to her attitude being: “...*And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord...*”(Colossians 3:23)

This brings us to the fact that there are often many happenings in life's journey that may primarily seem undesirable, and that don't appear to us to have any good purpose. The capture and captivity of this little girl would surely seem so on the surface, but the Word teaches us that God does nothing without good purpose. We do not know the far-reaching results of this little girl's faith in God, resulting in Naaman's own testimony of God, and could be continuing on even down to this present day and on unto the end of time.

Reflecting on the fact that his ONE LITTLE GIRL was used by God in His plan to affect many, many lives on into the far distant futures is thought-provoking and challenging to us to continually seek to live our lives with the purpose of serving God and living *"to the praise of the glory of His grace."* (Ephesians 1:6)

We do not know for what far-reaching purpose God may graciously use any one of us. May we reach out to those around us with the same alertness, concern and readiness to seek to glorify our merciful God of grace in whatever circumstances.

2 Corinthians 3:18 speaks so;

*"But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord."*