"Wasting Away"

Scripture Reading: 2 Kings 5:1-19

Naaman: A Man of Valor

Naaman was a commander of great power and influence, yet his strength could not shield him from the affliction of leprosy. No amount of success could provide what only God could—healing and wholeness. When offered a simple act of obedience for his cure, Naaman's pride nearly kept him from receiving God's gift. He expected healing on his own terms, but God required humility. His story reminds us that true strength is found in surrender, and healing comes when we lay down our pride and trust God's ways.

Reflection Questions:

- Where are you **relying on your own strength** instead of seeking God's help?
- What **struggles do you carry** (maybe even hidden) that only God can heal?
- How does pride **prevent you from receiving** what God is offering?

Slave Girl: The Wisdom of the Humble

The true strength in this story doesn't come from Naaman or the king, but from a nameless enslaved girl whose faith and wisdom set the miracle in motion. Despite her captivity, she speaks with faith and compassion, pointing Naaman toward healing. Later, Naaman's own servants urge him to humble himself and obey Elisha's command. Their voices, though easily overlooked, carry the wisdom that leads to transformation. God often speaks through the humble and lowly, calling us to simple acts of faith and obedience.

Reflection Questions:

- Who in your life **might be speaking truth,** even if they seem insignificant?
- How does pride sometimes **keep you from listening** to wisdom?
- What simple **step of faith or obedience** is God asking you to take today?

The King: Reacting in Fear

"Am I God, to kill and to make alive?" (2 Kings 5:7) **-** When the king of Israel receives Naaman's request for healing, he reacts in fear rather than faith. He assumes the request is a political trap rather than an opportunity

to point Naaman toward God. His response contrasts with the servant girl's faith—she believed in God's power, while the king, who should have known better, despaired.

Reflection Questions:

- Have you ever **reacted in fear** when you should have responded in faith?
- How does this passage **challenge you to trust** in God's power rather than your own limitations?
- Where in your life do you **see an opportunity** that you may be misinterpreting as a threat or burden?

Elisha: The Prophet

Elisha does not greet Naaman in person but instead sends a messenger with a simple command: wash in the Jordan seven times. Naaman, expecting a grand display of healing, is offended. Elisha's approach challenges Naaman's expectations and forces him to confront his pride.

Reflection Questions:

- Have you ever expected **God to work in a specific way** and been disappointed when He didn't?
- How can you **embrace humility and obedience,** even when God's instructions seem simple or unimpressive?

Naaman's Journey: From Pride to Humility to Worship

Naaman arrived with wealth and status, expecting healing on his own terms, but God required humility. His initial pride nearly kept him from receiving what God freely offered, yet when he finally obeyed, his healing went beyond the physical—his heart was transformed. He not only regained his health but also came to know and worship the one true God. God's ultimate desire is not just to fix our circumstances but to bring deep, inner renewal.

Reflection Questions:

- Where in your life do you struggle with wanting things **on your own terms** rather than God's?
- What does this passage **reveal about how pride** can prevent spiritual growth?
- Where in your life do you **need deeper healing** beyond just physical or external circumstances?

Closing Prayer

Father, I confess my tendency to rely on my own strength and resist Your ways. Teach me humility, open my heart to Your wisdom, and help me trust You beyond my fears and pride. Lead me into deeper healing and transformation as I surrender to You. In Jesus' name, Amen.