

NOT EXACTLY WHAT I EXPECTED

II Kings 5:9-12

Woodland Park Church of Christ

10 October 2021



Then Naaman went with his horses and chariot, and he stood at the door of Elisha's house. ¹⁰ And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, **“Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored to you, and you shall be clean.”** ¹¹ **But Naaman became furious,** and went away and said, **“Indeed, I said to myself,** ‘He will surely come out to me, and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, and wave his hand over the place, and heal the leprosy.’ ¹² **Are not the Abanah and the Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?”** **So he turned and went away in a rage.** II Kings 5:9-12

Context

How many times have we been turned off or become furious/angry because things don't happen the way we envisioned or planned (i.e., when God does not answer the way we want him to or think He should)?

- We go in with preconceived notions/ideas –
 - Spiritual matters
 - Career
 - Family
 - Health & fitness
 - Financial success

CONTEXT

But we have to remember Family and Friends →

“For *My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,*” says *the LORD.* ⁹ *“For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.”* **Isaiah 55:8-9**

The horse is prepared for the day of battle, but deliverance and victory belong to the LORD. **Proverbs 21:31**

Many times we miss God's blessings because we "have our minds made up" that things are supposed to happen a certain way.

But, sometimes God has to make things happen in the most improbable fashion, so we will know that God arranged our passage.

We can be so self-assured and self-reliant that there is no space or place for God -- my own genius, wisdom, resources, pedigree, contacts, etc.

THE PROVING OF GIDEON'S ARMY

And the LORD said to Gideon, “**The people who are with you are too many for Me to give the Midianites into their hands**, lest Israel claim glory for itself against Me, saying, ‘**My own hand has saved me.**’”³ Now therefore, proclaim in the hearing of the people, saying, “Whoever is fearful and afraid, let him turn and depart at once from Mount Gilead.”” And twenty-two thousand of the people returned, and ten thousand remained.⁴ But the LORD said to Gideon, “**The people are still too many**; bring them down to the water, and I will test them for you there . . . **Judges 7:2-4**

Then the LORD said to Gideon, "By the three hundred men who lapped I will save you, and deliver the Midianites into your hand. Let all the other people go, every man to his place."

Judges 7:7

For 300 men to defeat 135,000, there must be divine intervention and providence!

➔ Now Zebah and Zalmunna were at Karkor, and their armies with them, **about fifteen thousand, all who were left of the people of the East; for one hundred twenty thousand men who drew the sword had fallen . . .**¹² When Zebah and Zalmunna fled, he pursued them; and he took the two kings of Midian, Zebah and Zalmunna, and routed the whole army. **Judges 8:10, 12**

1. TRUST GOD, DON'T TEMPT HIM

God provides a way, and many times people question and whine instead of taking the blessing.

If God is who He claims He is I would not have to struggle or work so hard. Others living wickedly and wretchedly seem to have it so easy and stress free.

But, often the blessing is in the struggle –

- ➔ We learn to rely on God and lean less on our own strength and understanding.
- ➔ We grow and learn through adversity.

Trust in and rely confidently on the LORD with all your heart and do not rely on your own insight or understanding. ⁶ In all your ways know and acknowledge and recognize Him, and He will make your paths straight and smooth [removing obstacles that block your way]. Proverbs 3:5-6 [AMP]

Jesus said to him, "It is written again, 'You shall not tempt the LORD your God.'"

Matthew 4:7

THE OBSTACLE IS THE WAY . . . The Timeless Art of Turning Trials into Triumph (R. Holiday)

The adversity we face can actually serve as the vehicle for our success.

Offers three disciplines to seeing opportunity in every disaster.

Perspective/Perception – Action -- Will

Perspective is how we see and understand things around us. **Have to filter out things like expectation on how we scale the mountain!**

2. WE HAVE TO ACCEPT GOD ON HIS TERMS OR HAVE NO PART IN HIM

- Notice, Naaman couldn't buy his way out of leprosy – he offered “10 talents of silver, 6,000 shekels of gold, and ten changes of clothing.” **II Kings 5:5**
- There would be no laying on of hands or huge spectacle or cosmic display of God's awesome power (i.e., there would be no show). *See II Kings 5:11*
- Naaman couldn't dip in Abanah or Pharpar, rivers of his native country, and be cleansed.
- Naaman could not be sprinkled with H₂O from the Jordan or go down fewer than seven times in the Jordan if he wanted to be made whole!
- **Naaman had to dip seven times in the Jordan River.**

Many make the mistake of rejecting good, sound counsel (knowledge) because it is not how we want it, when we get it and the terms we want it!

The Bible flatly warns against this, and we must remember **God's way/plan is not subject to democratic rule or open to debate.**

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge [of My law, where I reveal My will]. Because you [the priestly nation] have rejected knowledge, I will also reject you from being My priest. Since you have forgotten the law of your God, I will also forget your children. Hosea 4:6

➔ *Brothers and sisters, my heart's desire and my prayer to God for Israel is **for their salvation**.² For I testify about them that **they have a certain enthusiasm for God, but not in accordance with [correct and vital] knowledge [about Him and His purposes]**.³ For not knowing about God's righteousness [which is based on faith], and seeking to establish their own [righteousness based on works], they did not submit to God's righteousness.*

Romans 10:1-3

3 ACCEPTING GOD ON HIS TERMS IS INDICATIVE OF A MATURE FAITH

- God expects our faith to grow and mature and not become stagnant.

Therefore let us **move beyond the elementary teachings about Christ and be taken forward to maturity**, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God, **Hebrews 6:1 [NIV]**

THE ATTITUDE

“God, I do not know and certainly do not care how You are going to make me over or see me through, but I know you will.”

- “I will do my best with what I have, but I will not have any ‘set-in-stone’ notions or ideas about how You will pull me through.”
- “I will certainly not get upset if Your will differs from how I planned or figured.”

*Now I know that the LORD saves His anointed; He will answer him from His holy heaven with the saving strength of His right hand. ⁷ **Some trust in chariots, and some in horses; but we will remember the name of the LORD our God.** Psalm 20:6-7*

*Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego answered and said to the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. ¹⁷ If that is the case, **our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king.** ¹⁸ But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up.” Daniel 3:16-18*



Lord's Invitation Extended to All

➤ Be added to the Lord's body

Hear the gospel

(Acts 15:7; I Corinthians 15:1-4)

Believe **(Acts 15:7; Rom. 10:17)**

Repent **(Acts 2:38)**

Confess **(Acts 8:37; Rom.10:10)**

Be baptized **(Acts 2:38, 8:38)**



Lord's Invitation (cont'd)

- **Be reconciled unto the Lord** (1 John 1:8-9); or
 - **Desire prayer** (James 5:16).
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