

# THE MIGHTINESS OF THE SMALL AND INSIGNIFICANT

Church of the Messiah

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# The mightiness of the small and insignificant (II Kings 5)

*1Now Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Syria, was a great and honorable man in the eyes of his master, because by him the Lord had given victory to Syria. He was also a mighty man of valor, but a leper. 2And 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. 3Then 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." 4And Naaman went in and told his master, saying, "Thus and thus said the girl who is from the land of Israel." 5Then the king of Syria said, "Go now, and I will send a letter to the king of Israel." So he departed and took with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten changes of clothing. 6Then 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.*

7And it happened, when the king of Israel read the letter, that he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to kill and make alive, that this man sends a man to me to heal him of his leprosy? Therefore please consider, and see how he seeks a quarrel with me." 8So it was, when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, that he sent to the king, saying, "Why have you torn your clothes? Please let him come to me, and he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel." 9Then Naaman went with his horses and chariot, and he stood at the door of Elisha's house. 10And 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." 11But 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.' 12Are 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. 13And his servants came near and spoke to him, and said, "My father, if the prophet had told you to do something great, would you not have done it? How much more then, when he says to you, 'Wash, and be clean'?"



- *14So he went down and dipped seven times in the Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God; and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean. 15And he returned to the man of God, he and all his aides, and came and stood before him; and he said, “Indeed, now I know that there is no God in all the earth, except in Israel; now therefore, please take a gift from your servant.” 16But he said, “As the Lord lives, before whom I stand, I will receive nothing.” And he urged him to take it, but he refused. 17So Naaman said, “Then, if not, please let your servant be given two mule-loads of earth; for your servant will no longer offer either burnt offering or sacrifice to other gods, but to the Lord. 18Yet in this thing may the Lord pardon your servant: when my master goes into the temple of Rimmon to worship there, and he leans on my hand, and I bow down in the temple of Rimmon—when I bow down in the temple of Rimmon, may the Lord please pardon your servant in this thing.” 19Then he said to him, “Go in peace.” So he departed from him a short distance.*

# Contrast this young girl and Naaman

- Naaman a gentile...  
*She is a hated Jew*
- Naaman is a great man...  
*She is an insignificant lowly, enslaved maid.*
- He was the great “Naaman”...  
*She isn't even named.*
- He was the Captain of the host of Syria...  
*She is a captive in a foreign land.*

I Corinthians 1: 18 says, *“The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing but to those who are being saved it is the power of God.”* Then verses 26-31

*26Think about your own calling, brothers,. Not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. 27But God chose what is nonsense in the world to make the wise feel ashamed. God chose what is weak in the world to make the strong feel ashamed. 28And God chose what is insignificant in the world, what is despised, what is nothing, in order to destroy what is something, 29so that no human being may boast in God’s presence. 30It is because of him that you are in union with Christ Jesus, who for us has become wisdom from God, as well as our righteousness, sanctification, and redemption. 31Therefore, as it is written, “The person who boasts must boast in the Lord.”*

# A PEDESTINATING, SOVEREIGN GOD HAD BEEN PLANNING THIS EVENT

- Psalm 31: 15 *“My times are in YOUR hands.”*
- Acts 17: 26-27 *“From one man He made every nation of men that they should inhabit the whole earth and He determined the times set for them and the exact place where they should live.”*



- **THE PRINCIPLE HERE:** God has a wise and good reason behind each of the perplexing and heart wrenching trials which enter our lives.
- **QUESTION:** Which is best, to interpret God through our circumstances or to interpret our circumstances through God?



# Summing it all up

We must...

- 1) Seize opportunities**
- 2) Be alert for “Divine” appointments**
- 3) Stop murmuring**
- 4) Praise God in all things**
- 5) Seek actively to bless others**