**30 Days of Devotions**

***“Abide in Me and I in You ... the Key John 15:4*.”**

Day 26

*“‘Go and wash yourself seven times in the Jordan River. Then your skin will be restored, and you will be healed of your leprosy.’”*   2 Kings 5:10 (NLT) Read 2 Kings 5:1-19

Naaman, a mighty warrior and commander in the army of the king of Aram, suffered from leprosy, a highly contagious skin disease. Naaman had received word that there was a prophet in Samaria who could heal him from the dreadful disease.  Naaman makes the journey taking with him many lavish gifts and a letter of introduction from the king of Aram to the king of Israel.

Upon arrival Naaman presents himself to the king, who becomes distraught after reading the letter, interpreting it as some sort of underhanded threat from the king of Aram. Elisha, who is God’s prophet, has Naaman directed to his house.

Naaman arrives at Elisha’s house and is greeted by his messenger, who gives him these instructions. *“‘Go and wash yourself seven times in the Jordan River. Then your skin will be restored, and you will be healed of your leprosy.’”* Here is where Naaman becomes insulted when Elisha did not meet him in person, in fact he became furious and was ready to leave, had it not been for one of his officers.  Naaman had went with the preconceived idea that the prophet would wave his hand over the leprosy and call on the name of God, then he would be healed.

The officer with Naaman convinced him to at least try what Elisha had instructed him to do. Naaman would have readily followed Elisha’s instructions had they been more difficult to accomplish, but because they were easy, Naaman thought they were foolish.  However, he did go and dip himself in the Jordan River seven times, and he was healed. Naaman then believed in the one true God, vowing never again to offer burnt offerings or sacrifices to any other god.

When we pray and ask God for something for our self or someone else, do we have our own ideas of how God should answer our prayers?  Naaman learned a lesson in obedience and trusting God, and there have been times that I needed the same lesson. How about you?

Recently, I have been reminded that God has no timetable on answering prayers, nor will He answer in ways that would seem logical to me. Remember what God said, *“‘My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts.’ . . .  ‘And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine.**For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts.*’” **1**We need to let God be God!

Prayer

*Father, You are so gracious. You forgive me when I don’t deserve it. You continue to bless me, when I forget to say thank you. I’m so sorry.*

*Lord, keep my eyes focused clearly upon You. Is there something You are wanting to say to me today, would You open my ears and soften my heart so that I can hear You, and make me sensitive to the Holy Spirit. Teach me Lord, how to pray, how to trust You.  Lord I just give all of me to You, please teach me what it means to abide in You. Teach me how to be a branch.*

*Naaman almost missed You. I don’t want to miss You Lord.*

*In Jesus Name I Pray, Amen*

*Marilyn LeFevre*

**1** Isaiah 55:8-9 (NLT)