



# The Voice Of Truth

A weekly publication of the

## Hillcrest church of Christ

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### The Little Maid

By Jimmy Pettigrew

*“Now Naaman, captain of the host of the king of Syria, was a great man with his master, and honorable, because by him Jehovah had given victory unto Syria: he was also a mighty man of valor, (but he was) a leper. And the Syrians had gone out in bands, and had brought away captive out of the land of Israel a little maiden; and she waited on Naaman's wife. And she said unto her mistress, Would that my lord were with the prophet that is in Samaria! then would he recover him of his leprosy. And one went in, and told his lord, saying, Thus and thus said the maiden that is of the land of Israel. (2 Kings 5:1-4).*

Though Naaman was captain of the Syrian army, a great military hero, in a position of honor and prestige, he had the dreaded disease of leprosy, which had no cure. His fame and greatness could not save him from his leprosy, just as a man's sincerity, honesty, fairness or goodness by itself will not save him from sin.

An Israelite maid had been stole during one of the raids of a Syrian company; she ended up serving Naaman's wife. This young girl told of Elisha, who could heal Naaman. By observing this little maid we see:

(1) She did not forget her religion though away from home. She remembered the power of God (2 Kings 5:3). We see that, though in a foreign land, she still

thought of God and the prophet of God. This little maiden took her religion with her, even in this difficulty.

The motto with great many professing Christians seems to be when they leave home, they leave God and their religion home. When away from home some seem to forget they are Christians, leaving God and their religion behind. Acting in a different way than while at home, when away from home some engage in sinful activities. Some fail to assemble with a congregation of God's people (Hebrews 10:25). Let us remember no matter where we go, God sees us (Psalm 33:13-14; Job 34:21; Hebrews 4:13). No matter where we go, let us take our religion with us, as Joseph took his into Egypt, as Daniel took his into Babylon, as this little Hebrew maid took hers into Syria.

(2) By observing this little maid we see her story is one of faith. She was faithful even in a difficult situation. She believed that God would take care of her when she was faithfully serving Him. Though she was a captive and had no means to help Naaman, she knew of one who could. She had faith in God. She knew that God was with Elisha, and therefore, she had no doubt about Elisha's success.

Where is our faith in God's promises when

difficulties and trials come our way? The secret of this little maid's faithfulness and usefulness was her strong and simple faith. Where is our faith in God's promises when discouragements come to us? Let us have the faith as little maid.

(3) By observing this little maid we see she did not render evil for evil. She had been torn away from her home, from her native land, by the rude hands of Syrian soldiers. Her family may have died at the hand of her master. Familiar faces, voices, and places were far from her. Yet, she did not demonstrate a spirit of revenge. Instead of rejoicing to see her captor suffer, she pities him. She longs that he may be healed of that terrible disease. Have we ever felt just a little joy when someone who has wronged us meets misfortune?

A spirit of revenge is not the spirit of Christ (**Matthew 5:44**). The disciples of Jesus are to love those who personally hate, curse, and despise them. How beautiful and wonderful would life on this earth be, if every person lived in obedience to this instruction of Jesus which has been well called by men, the golden rule (**Matthew 7:12**). The way to overcome evil is by doing good (**Romans 12:19-21**).

The little maid longed that her captor be healed;

*"And she said to her mistress, Would God my lord were with the prophet that is in Samaria! for he would recover him of his leprosy!"*

What a lesson this little maid has taught us! May we learn from this, and may God help us to demonstrate our Christianity at all times!

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### **Hate Every False Way**

Jimmy Pettigrew

Should we be upset, disturbed, troubled when we hear of churches of Christ not following God's pattern? Do you hate to hear of brethren teaching false doctrine? Does it break your heart? Do you grieve? I have had some brethren tell me **NO!** Jeremiah's heart was broken within him because of the false prophets. *"Mine heart within me is broken because of the prophets; all my*

*bones shake; I am like a drunken man ...,"* (**Jeremiah 23:9**). He was shocked and saddened by the corruption within the nation of Judah. His heart...is broken...all my bones shake; I am like a drunken man. Why is the prophet so deeply disturbed; why is he overcome by grief? It is because of his reverence for Jehovah, and his respect for the word of God which he hears reviled and rejected even among the priests and prophets of the land.

We as God's children should *"hate every false way,"* (**Psalm 119:104**). God hates every false way, and we can see this from **Genesis 6:3-8** and **Revelation 2:6**. It should upset, disturb and grieve us when we hear false doctrine being taught!

We are to expose error! We must be active in opposing, exposing and reproofing it (**Ephesians 5:10-11; John 3:20; Romans 16:17-18; 1 John 4:1**). Don't we have the same respect and reverence for God's word as Jeremiah? Does it not bother you to see Christ's body, the church (**Ephesians 1:22-23**), which He purchased with His own blood (**Acts 20:28**) nothing more than a denomination?

One day, brethren, we are going to stand before the judgment seat of Christ (**2 Corinthians 5:10**), and one of things Christ is going to ask is: did we oppose those who were in error? (**Jude 3**).

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### **Points To Ponder ...**

Never be ashamed to admit you were wrong. It is just another way of saying you're wiser today than you were yesterday.

Every saint this side of heaven should be concerned with every sinner this side of Hell.

You must expect to be bored if you are not interested in anything but yourself.

He that lives only for this life  
Shall live only in this life.