



The Voice Of Truth

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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 honourable, because by him the LORD had given deliverance unto Syria: he was also a mighty man in valour, but he was a leper. And the Syrians had gone out by companies, and had brought away captive out of the land of Israel a little maid; and she waited on Naaman's wife. And she said unto her mistress, Would God my lord were with the prophet that is in Samaria! for he would recover him of his leprosy. And one went in, and told his lord, saying, Thus and thus said the maid 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 stolen 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 their 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 here strong and simple faith. Where is our faith in God's promises when discouragements come to us? Let us have the faith has this little maid.

(3) *By observing this little maid we see she did not render evil for evil.* She had been torn 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 here 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 long that her captor be healed, 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! My we learn from this, and may God help us to demonstrate our Christianity at all times!

Common Courtesy

When an individual Christian is added to a local church, as a member, he or she should understand the great blessings and the great responsibilities of that membership. There are blessings in the sense that he will have a place where he can regularly assemble with godly people. He will be able to study with them, sing with them, pray with them, and surely these activities are a great benefit and encouragement to that member. He has a group of people who will help bear his burdens, who will weep with

him as he weeps and will rejoice with him as he rejoices. They will watch for his soul and correct him when he is wrong and forgive him when he repents. Indeed there are great blessings to be gained by being a part of the local congregation.

You being added to the church, the one body, the church of Christ comes with great responsibility. By being a member of a local congregation one is agreeing to support the work of the group. This is done in a number of ways:

1. He supports it by his faithful attendance. Hebrews 10:25 says, "not forsaking our own assembling together, as the custom of some is, but exhorting (one another); and so much the more, as ye see the day drawing nigh."

2. He supports the local work by being an edifying force in the church and not one who is destructive. The preceding verse in Hebrews 10 says that we are to, "consider one another to provoke unto love and good works" (vs. 24). In First Corinthians 14:26 it says, "Let all things be done unto edifying." That is each member is to supply his part to build up and to strengthen the church.

3. He supports the work by humbling submitting to the rule of the elders who are given the responsibility as overseers to the local congregation. Hebrews 13:17 says, "Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit (to them): for they watch in behalf of your souls, as they that shall give account; that they may do this with joy, and not with grief: for this (were) unprofitable for you." The elders have a difficult task, and one that is God given. The faithful members must do their part to make their work as easy as possible.

4. He supports the local work by regularly and consistently contributing financially. We are given the instruction in First Corinthians 16:1-2, "Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I gave order to the churches of Galatia, so also do ye. Upon the first day of the week let each one of you lay by him in store, as he may prosper, that no collections be made when I come." Certainly all of an individual's personal duties as a Christian are not satisfied simply because he gives money every Sunday, but it is a vital part of that church's work, and an act of worship!