Naaman, the Syrian
2 King 5:1-14

Introduction:
A. Naaman had good things going for him.
   1. "A great and honorable man in eyes of his master"
   2. "By him the Lord had given victory to Syria."
   3. "He was a mighty man of valor"
B. But, Naaman had some serious problems.
   1. A leper, like sin, - a problem that position and power couldn't help.
   2. A Syrian with pride - a problem that had to be overcome before cured.
C. Naaman made some mistakes then corrections that are worth noting.

Discussion:
I. Naaman's Mistakes.
   A. He went to the wrong person.
      1. The slave girl had pointed him to the prophet in Israel. (vs. 3-4)
      2. The king pointed him to the king of Israel. (vs. 5-7).
         a. Many think high and mighty have answers. (cf. 1 Cor. 1:26-2:4)
         b. Many look anywhere except inspired word. (cf. 2 Tim. 3:14-16).
   B. He went with the wrong attitude - prejudice and pride. (v. 11-12).
      1. Became furious when Elisha didn’t heal him his way (v. 11)
         a. Many want to be saved and serve God their way rather than Lord’s way.
         b. Many offended when Bible answers does not fit their prejudices.
      2. Considered rivers of his country better than all in the Lord’s country (v. 12)
         a. Why was one river not as good as another for Naaman?
         b. Why was one fire not as good as another for Nadab and Abihu? (Lev. 10:1-4).
         c. Why was one tribe not as good as another for the priesthood for Israel? (Heb. 7:12-24).
         d. Why is one music not as good as another for us? (Eph. 5:19).
         e. Why is one day not as good as another for the L.S. and Contribution? (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:1,2).
         f. Why is one church, Lord, etc. not as good as another for us? (Eph. 4:4-6)
   C. He went away in a rage. (vs. 11,12).
      1. Did not change his condition - still a leper.
      2. Did not change the prophet's message - still "go wash".
II. Naaman's Corrections.
   A. He finally listened to reason from his servants. (v.13)
      1. Obedience requires a rational response to God’s word - prejudice and pride are often irrational.
      2. Obedienced requires rational acceptance of what God says, even if it seems irrational to us.
   B. He finally went down and did what God's prophet said to do?
      1. His leprosy was washed away - not by water power, but God power.
      2. Our sins are washed away in baptism (Acts 22:17) - not by water power, but God's power.

Conclusion:
A. Let us profit from Naaman's mistakes.
B. Let us even profit more from Naaman's corrections.