

Date: 24 November 2019

Speaker: Rev Clement Chew

**Topic: The Prophet of Fire: A Young Believer**

Scripture text: 2 Kings 5:11-19

Naaman was a young believer and was used by the Lord to show Israel the importance of faith and trust in Him.

1. Naaman was a high ranking official but when he visited Elisha for healing, he was greeted by Elisha's messenger instead. It was a lesson for proud Naaman to learn that God is no respecter of persons or status. Elisha told him to wash himself in the river Jordan seven times and Naaman reacted in anger because he expected his healing to be done in a grand fashion. After persuasion from his servants, Naaman obeyed Elisha and was healed of his leprosy, according to the LORD's command. An unbeliever must first be humbled by the Lord. Before receiving Christ, he must be emptied of all his pride and acknowledge that he is a sinner and can only be saved by Jesus Christ. Then, he must believe and obey God's Word. We can only be spiritually clean when we put our faith and trust in Jesus Christ.

2. Naaman then confessed before all his servants that he experienced the grace of God and proclaimed that He is the one living and true God. All else were fictitious deities because only the LORD was able to heal him. God is omnipotent and is in control of all things. Naaman was a man of great faith and was willing to offer sacrifices to the LORD. He was no longer proud but humbled himself and acknowledged that he was a servant of the LORD. Elisha refused the great gifts brought by Naaman to send the right message to the Israelites that salvation or deliverance cannot be bought by money, but only by the grace and mercies of God.

3. Naaman was a young believer and although he had the desire to turn away from idols, he was still a babe in Christ. Elisha dealt gently with him when he asked for pardon in the event that he had to be found in a heathen temple as part of his official duties. Let us be patient and nurturing to the young believers around us and lead them in the way of Christ by our deeds and example.