



South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST MESSENGER



1807 S. Florida Ave.,
Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 75 No. 41 October 18, 2022

ELDERS

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Bobby Sheumaker

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SUNDAY SERVICES

Bible Study.....9:30 a.m.
Worship.....10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship.....6:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Ladies Class.....10:00 a.m.
Bible Study.....7:00 p.m.

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The Mistakes of Naaman

Joshua Cantrell

The Bible is filled with so many great accounts of people's lives that ultimately change the way we think. I enjoy reading the Old Testament to understand how God dealt with humanity and see how that connects to the New Testament. Paul would say, "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope." (Romans. 15:4). It has been stated, "those who don't learn from the past are doomed to repeat it." Certainly, that is true in the case of Naaman. His mistakes have their counterparts throughout the ages and our present world today.

Naaman had a problem in his life that is revealed to us in scripture. The Bible records, "Now Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Syria, was a great and honorable man in the eyes of this master because by him the LORD gave victory to Syria. He was a mighty man of valor, but a leper." (2 Kings. 5:1). Moses in the Law gave the Children of Israel strict instructions for those who had encountered this disease (Leviticus. 13-14). Throughout history, few diseases have been as dreaded as the horrible affliction known as being a leper. Leprosy refers to several skin diseases and even some kind of fungus, such as those found on the walls of houses and clothing.

1st Mistake - Naaman Went To The Wrong Man For Help

The text reveals for us, "Then he brought the letter to the King of Israel, which said, Now be advised, when this letter comes to you, that I have sent Naaman my servant to you, that you may heal him of his leprosy." (2 Kings. 5:6). The king did not have the power to heal Naaman. God had not given the king the power to heal Naaman of his leprosy. Even today, many go to numerous places trying to find spiritual healing, failing to realize only Jesus can provide that for them. People go to man-made priests. People go to "pastors" in the religious world. Wrong sources will not provide the right solution.

Throughout scripture, God will make a strong case as to why men should follow him. In the New Testament Jesus would often speak this to those he preached to. John records the words of Jesus, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John. 14:6). Jesus says he is the way, without him there is no going. Jesus says he is the truth, without him there is no knowing. Jesus says he is the life, without him, there is no growth. Matthew records the words of the Father, "this is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Here ye him." (Matthew. 17:5).

2nd Mistake - Naaman Learned That His Cleansing Was Conditional

The Bible records, "And Elisha sent a messenger to him saying, Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored to you, and you shall be clean." (2 Kings. 5:10). There were some things Naaman had to do rather than just some things he had to know or think. He had to follow the instructions of God's prophet to be cleansed. When God gives us instructions to follow, whether it is worship or our individual lives. We have to trust him and take him at his word. God must be obeyed in the way he commands us to be obeyed. Of Jesus the Bible records, "And have been perfected, he became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey him." (Hebrews. 5:9). Matthew records, "Not everyone who says to me, Lord, Lord, shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but who does the will of my Father in heaven." (Matthew. 7:21).

People today must obey the Gospel of Jesus Christ to be cleansed. As recorded in Matthew 8, Jesus is going to encounter a Leper and cleanse him. Which will ultimately lead to his cleansing. We need not make the mistake of believing that people do not have to obey the Gospel to be saved (or obey the words of God in the Old Testament). God has done his part (John. 3:16), now we must do ours.

3rd Mistake - Naaman Became Angry

Naaman got upset upon hearing the words of the Prophet (2 Kings. 5:11). Naaman did not like the instructions he received, and he did not like the solution he was told. Naaman did not like the idea that he would have to put forth the effort to do something rather than just have Elisha do something to him and for him. Not getting what he thought the solution should be, he became angry. The sad reality is, in his anger, he was still a leper. Many today become angry when they hear the truth of God's word. They become angry when they hear what God wants them to do because it is different than what they thought they should be able to do.

Luke records, "And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord." (Acts. 22:16). Did Saul do that? Luke reveals, "And he arose and was baptized." (Acts. 9:18). People are angry at the thought they have to go to the water to be cleansed of their sins. People are angry that the Bible requires more of them than they feel that it should or that is needful for them to have to do. Many look to God to save them separately and apart from his plan. Titus writes "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit." (Titus. 3:5)

4th Mistake - Naaman Wanted His Way

The Bible records, "But Naaman became furious, and went away and said. Indeed, I said to myself, he will surely come out to me, and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, and wave his hand over the place, and heal leprosy." (2 Kings. 5:11). Naaman in his mind already came up with a way to be cleansed. His way would be the right way and surely everyone else would agree with him. He was trying to do God's thinking for him. Our thoughts and ideas should be replaced with a "thus saith the Lord" attitude.

Naaman wanted a substitute for what the prophet had told him (2 Kings. 5:12). Substitution with the wrong thing is a replacement for the right thing. There is never a right way to do a wrong thing. Upon Naaman's obedience, he was cleansed of his leprosy (2 Kings. 5:14). Naaman had to recognize and accept God's way and obey it before he was cured of his leprosy. For one to be cleansed of their sin, one must obey the Gospel of Jesus Christ. God has given us a plan, his son has made that possible. May we learn from the mistakes of Naaman, strive daily to trust God, and take him at his word.

PERMANENTLY
Christian

NOVEMBER 13TH - 16TH
SOUTH FLORIDA AVE. CHURCH OF CHRIST
FALL 2022 GOSPEL MEETING

1807 S. FLORIDA AVENUE
LAKELAND, FL 33803



JEFF JENKINS

Jeff has been preaching since 1973. He holds degrees from Faulkner University (AA - 1979), Freed-Hardeman University (BA - 1981), and has done post-graduate work at both Southern Christian University and Emory University. He is also a co-founder of The Jenkins Institute.

please join us

Bible Study - "The Christian's Position"
A.M. Worship - "God's Plan"
Fellowship meal following A.M. worship
P.M. Worship - "The Christian's Practice"
Monday - "The Christian's Perspective"
Tuesday - "The Christian's Place"
Wednesday - "The Christian's Power"
Sunday: 9:30 AM, 10:30 AM, & 6:00 PM
Monday- Wednesday: 7:00 PM

Sunday October 30

Free Candy

TRUNK or TREAT

following evening worship (around 7:00 p.m.)

Please do not wear costumes to worship.
There will be time to change afterward.

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

Our Members:

Bob Pratt - health
 Jim Turner - health
 Brian Smith - heart health
 Debbie Bush - struggles
 Antoine & Marcella Swain - health
 Wayne Shearer - health
 Geny Johnson - health
 Sophia Smith- in TICU @ LRMC

PRAYER LIST

Ron & Judy Ford - health
 Bernetta Green - health & strength
 Bobby Simpson - health
 Annett Phillip - health
 Janie Wise - health
 Brenda Mask - health
 Bitsy Thomas - injury
 Wayne Shearer- PET Scan, Oct. 21st

(Please update the office of any changes)

The **EXTENDED FAMILY AND FRIENDS** prayer requests are emailed every week and posted on the bulletin board. Please let the office know if someone's status on that list needs to be updated or if a person needs to be removed from the list

Pray for our Shut-ins

Joyce Burbage Carol Eason

Brothers, pray for us. 1 Thessalonians 5:25

Responses

Tim Croson came forward and repented of not being stronger and conscientious in attendance during the pandemic, and asked for prayers.

Janis Waldon came forward and repented of sin and asked for the prayers of the congregation.

Dawn Sutton came forward and repented of sin and asked us to pray for her.

Welcome

Dawn Sutton has placed membership here at South Florida Ave. Let's welcome her:

1826 Prairie Dunes Circle S.
 Lakeland, FL 33810

5TH SUNDAY COLLECTION

The next 5th Sunday collection for the Building Fund will be **October 30, 2022.**

if you would like to give additional funds at other times, please mail or bring them to the office. Be sure to designate the contribution as part of the Building Fund. It will be collected by the elders.

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

October

Designated Elder - Bobby Sheumaker

Wednesday, October 19, 2022

Announcements David Anderson
 Song Leader/prayer Frank Hamby
 Devo Kyle Faneuf
 Closing Prayer Rick Kenyon

Sunday, October 23rd, 2022

10:30 A.M.

Abhor What is Evil... Vince Daugherty
Philippians 2:1-4

6:00 P.M.

Singing Night

10:30 A.M.

Song/prayer before class Terrance Dindy Jr.
 Announcements Frank Hamby
 A.M. Song Leader David Williams
 Scripture reading/Prayer Tyler Anderson
 Lord's Table Lou Van Allen
 Closing Prayer Paul Sweeney
 Open/Close bldg (both) B. Sheumaker
 Greeters D. & N. Williams
 Attendance cards (both) Cam'ron/ Caelen

6:00 P.M.

P.M. Song Leader David Williams
 Scripture reading/Prayer Rick Kenyon
 Lord's Table Lou Van Allen
 Closing Prayer Josh Estridge
 Greeters Nona/ Janis

Wednesday, October 26, 2022

Announcements B. Sheumaker
 Song Leader/Prayer Stacey Paulin
 Devo David Anderson
 Closing Prayer Brian Kenyon

Upcoming Events

October

21 - Fiesta Friday
 23 - N. Jackson Ave. Homecoming
 27 - Ladies' Night Out
 28 - Orange St. Sing, 7pm
 30 - Trunk or Treat

November

11-13- WWCC Fall Family Camp
 13- Elders, Deacons, & Preachers' Meeting
 13-16- Fall gospel meeting
 18- Youth Thankful Meal



~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Oct 2	\$8,876.00
Oct 9	\$5,338.00
Oct 16	\$6,597.00
Contribution Average	\$6,937.00
Weekly budget	\$7,663.43

Sometimes, in the grand scheme of things, it's easy to overlook little things- especially when sitting at the bedside of your youngest child after a tragic accident. My Keurig has been trying to die for the last several months now, but all I have been able to find at Walmart so far are the more expensive ones- and I am just not willing to do that at this point. So, this morning we decided to head to a different Walmart to see what they have, and thought we would hit some yard sales on the way. We even said aloud, wouldn't it be great if we ran across a Keurig at a yard sale? I don't know about you, but generally, we do not find Keurigs at yard sales (and I go to a lot of yard sales). There was literally only one yard sale sign between our house and Walmart and the sign said it did not start until 9 AM, but we drove by anyway just to see. We stopped in front of the house and the ladies were bringing things out, and over by a tree behind a few other items was a basic red Keurig machine for only \$10. Coincidence? Not a chance. I know where that came from. So as I sit here beside Sophia's bed, she cannot talk to me and tell me she loves me, she can't open her eyes right now, and I don't know exactly when that will happen again. But she is breathing on her own, she is maintaining her vital signs and body functions, and she has all her reflexes as they should be. Those things are huge, really, and I need to be grateful to Him for that instead of looking for something else right now. God is here and He hears me. He heard me about something as silly as a coffee maker, and He hears our prayers for my baby.

"In my distress I called upon the Lord; to my God I cried for help. From his temple he heard my voice, and my cry to him reached his ears." Psalm 18:6

Verses about God's Goodness

The Lord is good to all, And his tender mercies are over all his works.

Psalm 145:9

Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.

1 Chronicles 16:34

He loves righteousness and justice; The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.

Psalm 33:5

The Lord is good, A stronghold in the day of trouble; And He knows those who trust in Him.

Nahum 1:7

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South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST

1807 South Florida Avenue
Lakeland, FL 33803-2653

Return Service Requested

*Oh, give thanks to the
LORD, for He is good!
For His mercy endures
forever.*

Psalm 107:1



If you prefer to receive the bulletin via email, contact us.