

Healing For Terminal Uniqueness

Lesson 7

"We've got to either be up high or down low. We can't stand it in the middle. Feeling average doesn't do it for us. God forbid that somebody would tell us that we're average! 'Do anything to me, God, but don't make me average!' Even the word has just a horrible sound to it, you know? Or if we should want to be average, we want to be the most average - the number one average person of the universe. So, we've got to be number one, either at one end of the spectrum or the other. And whatever we use to get us to either end can become our allergy of the body [i.e. addiction]." – Mike O'Neal, *Power to Choose*

Have you ever found yourself doing unhealthy things or resisting help because you thought you were an exceptional case, that the rules that apply to most people don't apply to you? Read this Bible story about how God helped one man who had that kind of thinking, and see how your story is like his:

2 Kings 5:1-14—Now Naaman was commander of the army of the king of Aram. He was a great man in the sight of his master and highly regarded, because through him the LORD had given victory to Aram. He was a valiant soldier, but he had leprosy.

Now bands from Aram had gone out and had taken captive a young girl from Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. She said to her mistress, "If only my master would see the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy."

Naaman went to his master and told him what the girl from Israel had said. "By all means, go," the king of Aram replied... So Naaman went with his horses and chariots and stopped at the door of Elisha's house. Elisha sent a messenger to say to him, "Go, wash yourself seven times in the Jordan, and your flesh will be restored and you will be cleansed."

But Naaman went away angry and said, "I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, wave his hand over the spot and cure me of my leprosy. Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than any of the waters of Israel? Couldn't I wash in them and be cleansed?" So he turned and went off in a rage.

Naaman's servants went to him and said, "My father, if the prophet had told you to do some great thing, would you not have done it? How much more, then, when he tells you, 'Wash and be cleansed!'" So he went down and dipped himself in the Jordan seven times, as the man of God had told him, and his flesh was restored and became clean like that of a young boy.

WHAT DO I HAVE IN COMMON WITH THIS MAN?

Naaman

Me

- Had a horrible, incurable disease
- A “chance” encounter with someone turned his life around
- Thought he deserved special treatment
- Was picky about the kind of help he accepted
- Didn’t have a good attitude about his recovery program at first
- Got the full benefit of God’s love and care in spite of his doubts and bad attitude

What do I lose out on by insisting I’m a special case?

What do I gain by humbling myself to admit I’m an ordinary human being?