

with the king, sent word to him, saying, "Let him come now to me and he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel. Such language as this was surely fitted to inspire the heart of Naaman with new hope. We are not informed by what means Elisha came to know the result of the leper's interview with the king, but we are sure that the prophet had a strong desire to have Israel's God honoured and glorified before the eyes of the Syrians; and doubtless by divine impulse he was directed to invite the leper to come to him, and it would soon be apparent that what the Hebrew maid said was true, and also that there was no God in all the earth but the God of Israel. "So Naaman came with his horses and with his chariot and stood at the door of the house of Elisha." There he stands, impatiently waiting till the man of God appears to perform the difficult but necessary operation; he is willing and well prepared to pay Elisha a handsome sum for the cure. But God's thoughts are not as man's thoughts, neither are his ways as our ways. The prophet does not come near his patient either to see him, or speak to him or touch him, he simply sent a messenger unto him, saying, "Go and wash in Jordan seven times, and thy flesh shall come again to thee and thou shalt be clean."

All that is now necessary to Naaman's cleansing is faith, strong faith and a short journey; but he was unwilling to take the journey because he was destitute of faith in the means. Naaman's proud and haughty heart would not let him bow to such a prescription as this. Its simplicity was too much for him. He considered the non-appearance of the prophet, and the nature of the prescription as a contemptible insult; and the Syrian blood which had long been cold and almost motionless now began to boil in his veins. He "became wroth, and said, Behold I thought, He will surely come out to me, and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, and strike his hand over the place and recover the leper. Are not Abana and Pharpar rivers of Damascus better than all the waters of Israel? May I not wash in them and be clean? So he turned and went away in a rage." This proud, haughty, high minded Syrian rebelled in his heart against the simplest means of cure, the only means of cure, because the divinely-appointed means of cure: and so it is with self-righteous sinners, proud-hearted pharisees. Instead of coming by simple faith, and by simple faith alone to the blood of Jesus, which cleanseth from the leprosy of sin, they labour and toil to establish a righteousness of their own. Dear reader, it was not till Naaman complied with