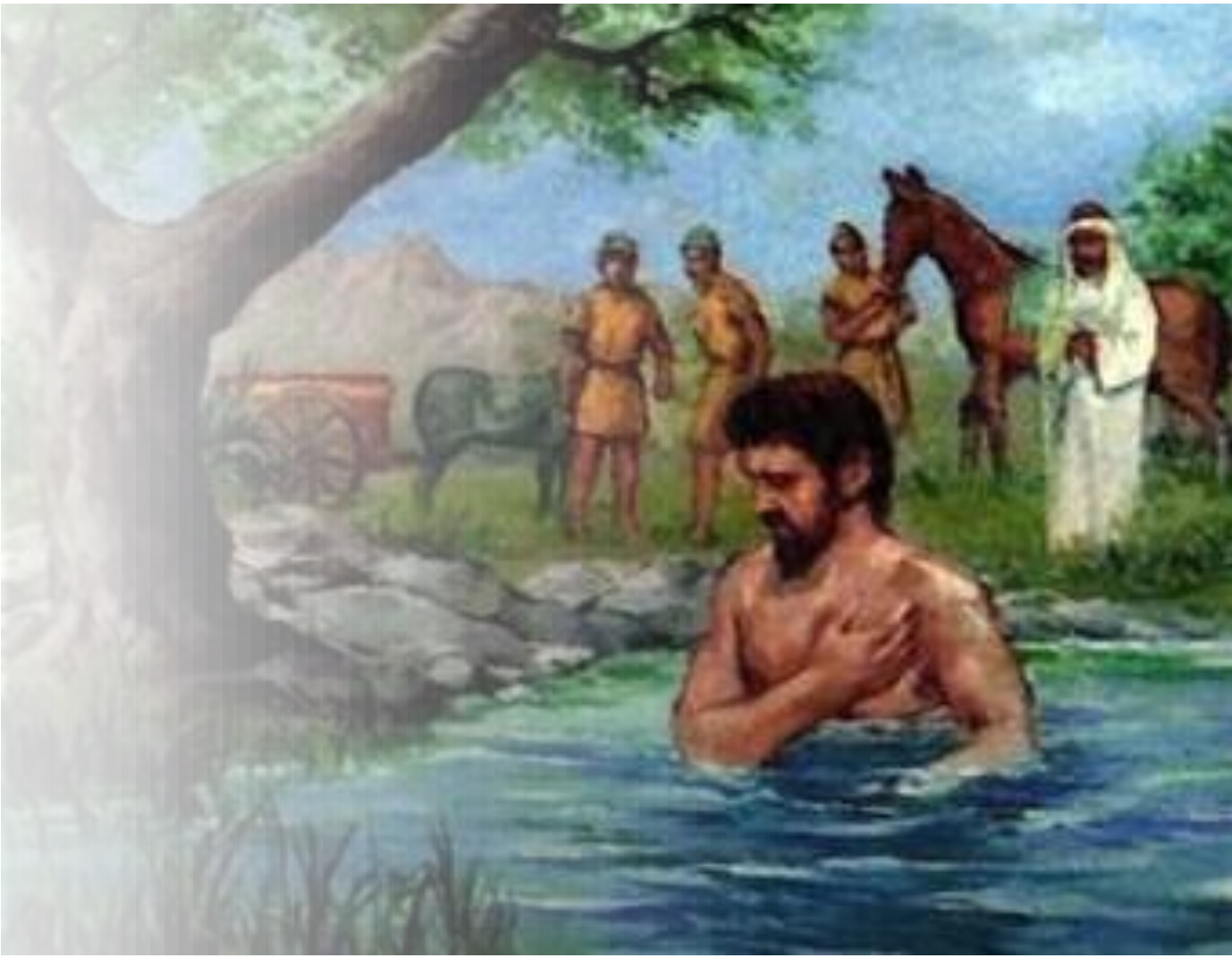
Healing by Decrees! Becomes Healing by Degrees!

The Healing Journey



Healing by Degrees

Now Naaman, captain of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man with his master, and highly respected, because by him the Lord had given victory to Aram. The man was also a valiant warrior, but he was a leper. Now the Arameans had gone out in bands and had take captive a little girl for the land of Israel; and she waited on Naaman's wife. She said to her mistress, "I wish that my master were with the prophet who is in Samaria! Then he would cure him of his leprosy."

Healing by Degrees

Naaman went in and told his master saying, “Thus and thus spoke the girl who is from the land of Israel.” Then the king of Aram said, “Go now, and I will send a letter to the king of Israel.” He departed and took with him ten talents of silver and six thousand shekels of gold and ten changes of clothes.

He brought the letter to the king of Israel, saying, “And now as this letter comes to you, behold, I have sent Naaman my servant to you, that you may cure him of his leprosy.”

Healing by Degrees

When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to kill and to make alive, that this man is sending word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? But consider now and see how he is seeking a quarrel against me."

It happened when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes that he sent word to the king saying, "Why have you torn your clothes? Now let him come to me and he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel.

Healing by Degrees

So Naaman came with his horses and his chariots and stood at the doorway of the house of Elisha. Elisha sent a messenger to him saying, "God and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh will be restored to you and you will be clean."

But Naaman was furious and went away 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 wave his hand over the place and cure the leper.' Are not Abanah and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?" So he turned and went away in a rage.

Healing by Degrees

Then his servants came near and spoke to him and said, "My father, had the prophet told you to do some great thing, would you not have done it? How much more then, when he says to you, 'Wash and be clean'?" So he went down and dipped himself seven times in the Jordan according to the word of the man of God' and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean…"

Healing by Degrees

God is a God who cannot be manipulated into anything, but who must be obeyed, even in the smallest detail.

God can heal physical bodies, but He won’t send healing for a price. He most certainly won’t heal us if by healing us it will ruin everything else and leave us in our sins.

Healing by Degrees

Sickness is <u>not</u> a gift from God.

Disease and death are named as enemies in the New Testament. Jesus spent his ministry healing sickness, curing leprosy. This is what he told the disciples to do:

As you go, preach, saying "This kingdom of God is at hand." Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. Freely you received, freely give…" Matthew 10: 7 NASB

Healing by Degrees

When God heals, he heals the soul within, as well as the physical body without…

Did you notice the pride of this fellow… He walked in the company of kings, and actually got a letter procuring his king's request that he be healed in Israel.

Healing by Degrees

A strange twist:

A slave girl, taken from family by his army, FROM THE NATION ISRAEL—THE SWORN ENEMY OF SYRIA, tells Naaman that her God can heal him, that her God was stronger than his! Naaman and his king were the sworn enemies of Israel.

Naaman heard that the God of his avowed and detested enemy could heal him through the ministry of a prophet living in that enemy's territory.

Healing by Degrees

Naaman shows up—and he shows up BIG TIME! He has

- *Ten talents of silver (one talent equalled more than a year's wages),*
- *Six thousand shekels of gold…*
- *Ten sets of clothing (most got one to last two or three years).*
- *Horses and burden bearing mules (camels?).*
- *Chariots (only kings and generals had the use of those).*
- *A retinue of armed soldiers, servants and warriors traveling en-route with him (no one traveled with wealth unless armed to the teeth).*

Healing by Degrees

What does Elisha give him in return?

- ***A serving boy with a memo on a sticky note, telling him to take a bath in a shallow, dirty river.***

Healing by Degrees

But Naaman went away furious and said, "I thought 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. 2 Kings 5:11 NIV

- *He wanted Benny Hinn joined with a royal reception.*
- *He wanted the charismatic faith healer to come out and wave his hands around, shouting "HEAL!" or "FIRE!".*
- *He wanted to vibrate at the altar, experience holy laughter, fall down, overwhelmed by the power of the Spirit, or feel a jolt of power, and so be healed by the God of Israel in a magnificent display of regal power.*

Healing by Degrees

When God sets about healing us, he doesn't just heal our bodies. He heals our souls as well.

To be healed is to be in <u>right relationship</u> with God.

Healing by Degrees

Naaman was given a greater healing than he or the king every dreamt of having: Naaman would have to get his soul made well first, through a process of learning humility

Healing by Degrees

So he went down and dipped himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child and he was clean… 2 Kings 5:14 NASB

The ultimate and complete healing of Naaman the Syrian flowed through an act of obedience.

Healing by degrees

How I learned to pray for healing—a healing by degrees…

From abject fear, to being confronted, to praying for another…

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