



Everyday FAITH Family Page

Old Testament 4

Law/Gospel

Sin and its effects slowly kill me, both in body and soul. **Jesus saves me, both in body and soul. He cleanses me from sin and at the resurrection will heal my body and make it perfect, so it will be like His.**

Bible Words

The Lord is my helper.
Hebrews 13:6

Not-So-Fun Facts

Leprosy, also called Hansen's disease, results from a bacterial infection. It inflames the nerves, respiratory tract, skin, and eyes. Nerve damage causes inability to feel pain, which often results in the loss of extremities due to injury or infection. Once considered incurable, drug therapy now cures leprosy in about six months. When the World Health Organization began providing no-cost treatment, the number of chronic cases in the world decreased from 5.2 million in the 1980s to 189,000 in 2012. More than half of the new cases each year appear in India. Two hundred cases are reported each year in the United States. For more information, visit the World Health Organization's website: www.who.int.

Naaman and Elisha

2 Kings 5:1-14

A little girl played a key role in the miraculous healing of Naaman, a Syrian military commander. Syria often battled Israel, their enemy to the south. In one border skirmish, the Syrians carried off a little Israelite girl who became a servant to Naaman's wife.

The Bible calls Naaman a great and highly favored man of valor. Sadly, he suffered from the incurable disease of leprosy. The servant girl told her mistress about an Israelite prophet who could heal her husband.

Naaman told his king about the prophet, and his king wrote a letter to the king of Israel to ask for healing. Taking lavish gifts, Naaman showed up at the palace in Samaria. When he read the letter, the king of Israel despaired and tore his clothing. He knew he could not heal the man and assumed the king of Syria was picking a fight with him.

When Elisha the prophet heard about this, he told Israel's king to send Naaman to him so that he would know there is a prophet in Israel. When Naaman arrived, Elisha sent a messenger to tell him to wash in the Jordan River seven times to restore his skin and become clean.

Naaman did not understand that God's Law prevented Elisha from meeting a leper in person (Leviticus 13:46) and became very angry. He expected a personal meeting and a little hocus pocus, not simple and ordinary directions. His servants talked Naaman into following the instructions. When he did, his flesh was restored. He was clean.

This narrative points us to Jesus, who cleanses us from sin through the waters of Holy Baptism. There, we participate in Jesus' death and resurrection and receive forgiveness of sin and new life, now and forever.

Prayer

Dear Lord, help us to remember that You made us Your own beloved children in Baptism. Help us to trust and follow You always. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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