

Resurrection Stories: Servants of Resurrection

II Kings 5 || Pastor Paul Hahn || 25 April 2021

*To CARE for one another in truth and in love,
To GROW together as followers of Jesus,
To SERVE those God has placed in our path.
– CG Mission Statement*

Icebreaker: What was the last movie you watched? Was there a resurrection story in the movie?

Worship: [Romans 6:4-11](#) (Remain a few moments in worship with this passage. What is God's invitation to you?)

Sermon Summary for [II Kings 5:1-27](#) (Read the passage aloud before reading the sermon summary.)

Every part of the Old Testament points to the death and resurrection of Jesus. In this story found in Second Kings, we see Elisha raise an enemy warrior out of the living death of leprosy – and through it we can see Christ risen as well. Like the servant-characters in this story, we can become servants of Jesus in His resurrection. It is Easter which frees us of our terrible burdens. Guilt, shame, approval seeking, despair, abandonment, fear of death... all of these fall from our backs to be left in the empty tomb when we open ourselves to the Risen Jesus. The power and truth of Easter is that it calls forth complete change in us. We are born again by it, not only into living hope, but into a world where we are given over to be a steward of Easter – to be tipped forward into resurrection service:

Resurrection Service to the Undeserving // In biblical times, leprosy wasn't just a skin disease that was a kind of living death; it was also seen as a form of divine curse. Those who suffered the rotting of their flesh also suffered being cut off from society, even their families. Here, the one suffering from leprosy was a man the Israelites would see as terrible enough to deserve it. And yet a young, enslaved Israelite sees that even he is worth sharing the truth of God's healing power. It's tough to honestly say that we would be so loving to those who deserve nothing but our spite. But sharing Christ's love and grace in these ways speaks to the miraculous power behind the resurrection. So how do we do this? How do we serve resurrection to those our hearts see as the least deserving? By getting in touch with how deeply we were Christ's enemy; we consider how He has brought resurrection to us when we were utterly undeserving. Knowing in our hearts – in our gut – that we truly were enemies of God... and yet Jesus died and rose again for us. This empowers us to freely share this Good News while inspiring others to ask what could possibly cause us to show such love and grace to our enemies.

Resurrection Service to the Proud // The Gospel will never cater to our pride. When resurrection comes to us, it comes as we are dead in our trespasses and our sins, dead in our addictions, dead in our ability to forge any change within ourselves. Like Naaman, we pridefully think we must do something great in order to be healed, fixed or forgiven. But what the Gospel demands is that we bring nothing with us. As Tim Keller wrote, "All you need is nothing." We must confront our pride and open ourselves to humility – of our complete need and utter reliance on our Father's love and grace. Out of this, we live our lives so that those to whom love is a stranger will find in us generous friends. Humility is the way of the Kingdom; and if we, in love, can help others be gently humbled, then they are ready for beautiful experiences of healing by the grace of God.

Resurrection Service Not for Personal Gain // Jesus famously said that we cannot serve two masters; we cannot serve both God and money (Matt 6:24). It never works. This is haunting because so many of us try to live under the Lord and for the Lord... while still chasing money. But if our hands are full (clutching material wealth), we will have no openness to the grace of God. The disease of greed will stick to us like leprosy stuck to Elisha's servant Gehazi. This is a call for us to ask God to unite our hearts in service to Him out of the riches He has already given us. And to trust Him for every good thing we need daily as we live out the hope of the Gospel.

Discussion Questions (You will not be able to discuss all the questions. Pick the ones you like. Some are personal perspective and application questions for life-transforming discussions.)

Resurrection Servant to the Undeserving (vv 1-7)

- Why do you think the Syrians listened to the little slave girl's suggestion for the healing of Namaan?
 - What motivated her actions? What does this tell us about her lifestyle and her faith?
- If others were to look at your life, what would they see that reveals your love for the one true God?
 - How do you choose God's ways over your own? Give examples.

Resurrection Servant to the Proud (vv 8-19a)

- How did Elisha practice resurrection servanthood? Why?
 - How are Namaan's servants the agents of resurrection? What were they willing to do for Namaan?
 - Are you engaged enough in community to give and receive this type of resurrection servant love?
- Describe a time when God had you serve the undeserving or the proud in this way. What was that like?

Resurrection Servant not for Personal Gain (vv 19b-27)

- Compare the faith of Namaan (a newly converted Syrian) and the faith of Gehazi (the servant of Elisha).
 - What does Gehazi seem to be living for, and in what was he completely disinterested?
- Discuss God's response to the actions of Gehazi? What could be the outcome?
 - Would you agree that God's discipline is a potent dose of His loving grace? Why or why not?
- How has Jesus been revealing Himself to you in these resurrection stories?
 - Where is He inviting you to be a Resurrection Servant?

Prayer For the weekly Prayer Guide to use personally, with your group, or family click [HERE](#).

Engage & Experience: Generous Hospitality

We are recommending *The Art of Neighboring* by Jay Pathak and Dave Runyon ([site](#) | [book](#)).

As we focus on Generous Hospitality for several weeks, here are a couple of assignments:

- 1) Be purposeful in doing one small thing that moves you down the line with a neighbor from Stranger to Acquaintance to Relationship.
- 2) Walk around your block asking God to give you a vision for what He wants your neighborhood to look like and what your part in the plan is.

For those of you who missed the Generous Hospitality Seminar, here is Dave Runyon's portion. Click [Here](#) to listen.