



LADIES OF RENOWN

2 Kings 5:1-19

The Slave Girl's Moment [The Influence of Humility]

*"Never underestimate the voice of the humble,
the power of a small act of faith,
or the ripple effect of speaking up for God."
-- All The Women of the Bible, Herbert Lockyer*

[1] The Source of Unlimited Influence

*"Your influence is never limited
when your heart belongs to God."* [AWB]

*"Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be
acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer."
[Psalm 19:14, David's Lyric]*

[2] The Influence of Humility

*"Those in humble places often
carry the greatest light."* [AWB]

*"Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you."
[James 4:10, The Declaration of James]*

[3] The Scope of Influence

*"No one is too small, too broken, or too forgotten
to make an eternal impact."* [AWB]

*"Would that my lord were with the prophet who is in
Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy."
[2 Kings 5:3, Slave Girls Life Changing Sentence]*

Study Questions and Prayer

[1] Read Psalm 19:14. How can the meditation of your heart and the words of your mouth lead you to alignment with God's will to create lasting influence?

[2] Read James 4:10. How does God respond when we humble ourselves before Him. Has there been a time when you humbly submitted to His will and He lifted you up?

[3] Read 2 Kings 5:15-20. Naaman asked in advance to be pardoned for bowing in the temple to a false God. Where do you feel a tension between serving God and living as part of today's culture? Where do you see faith impacting the culture?

[4] Pray for God to increase your influence as He guides your heart and you walk in humility.

[2 Kings 5:1-5a] Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Syria, was a great man with his master and in high favor, because by him the Lord had given victory to Syria. He was a mighty man of valor, [Judges 6:12, 2 Kings 5:1, 2 Chronicles 17:17] but he was a leper. ² Now the Syrians on one of their raids had carried off a little girl from the land of Israel, and she worked in the service of Naaman's wife. ³ She said to her mistress, "Would that my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy." ⁴ So Naaman went in and told his lord, "Thus and so spoke the girl from the land of Israel." ⁵ And the king of Syria [Ben-Hadad] said, "Go now, and I will send a letter to the king of Israel."

[2 Kings 5:5b-7] So he went, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, [2 Kings 4:42, 8:8-9, 1 Samuel 9:7] and ten changes of clothing. ⁶ And he brought the letter to the king of Israel, which read, "When this letter reaches you, know that I have sent to you Naaman my servant, that you may cure him of his leprosy." ⁷ And 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 sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? Only consider, and see how he is seeking a quarrel with me."

[2 Kings 5:8-14] But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, [Genesis 24:13] he sent to the king, saying, "Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come now to me, that he may know that there is a prophet in Israel." ⁹ So Naaman came with his horses and chariots and stood at the door of Elisha's house. ¹⁰ And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored, and you shall be clean." [John 9:7] ¹¹ But Naaman was angry and went away, saying, "Behold, I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call upon the name of the Lord his God, and wave his hand over the place and cure the leper. ¹² Are not Abana 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. ¹³ But his servants came near and said to him, "My father, it is a great word the prophet has spoken to you; will you not do it? Has he actually said to you, 'Wash, and be clean'?" ¹⁴ 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, [Job 33:25] and he was clean. [Luke 4:27]

[2 Kings 5:15-19] ¹⁵ Then he returned to the man of God, he and all his company, and he came and stood before him. And he said, "Behold, I know that there is no God in all the earth but in Israel; [Daniel 2:47, 3:29, 6:26-6:27] so accept now a present from your servant." [Genesis 33:11] ¹⁶ But he said, "As the Lord lives, before whom I stand, I will receive none." [Genesis 14:23] And he urged him to take it, but he refused. ¹⁷ Then Naaman said, "If not, please let there be given to your servant two mule loads of earth, for from now on your servant will not offer burnt offering or sacrifice to any god but the Lord. ¹⁸ In this matter may the Lord pardon your servant: when my master goes into the house of Rimmon to worship there, [1 Kings 15:18, Zechariah 12:11] leaning on my arm, [2 Kings 7:2, 17] and I bow myself in the house of Rimmon, when I bow myself in the house of Rimmon, the Lord pardon your servant in this matter." ¹⁹ He said to him, "Go in peace." [1 Samuel 1:17]