

## Wednesday thoughts

Words from the musical 'The King & I' have brought to mind an extract from a song ... "by your pupils you will be taught" – that in turn serves to remind us of the story that we can find in 2 Kings 5:1-17 (NRSV) about Elisha, Naaman and a servant girl. And all of that goes to remind us we are never too high and mighty to take advice (our theme this week) from those often regarded as 'lesser mortals'.

In this story we learn of a well-regarded man of high status who has for many years been plagued by what appears to be an incurable disease. No medical man has discovered any successful remedy or cure. That man's name was Naaman who was Commander of the army of the King of Aram and who had the dreaded disease – leprosy. Today, as we are all aware, in those long-ago times leprosy was as good as a death sentence.



However despite his apparent disabilities we see this Naaman as an arrogant and forceful person, full of his own importance who expects everyone to jump when he says jump, with no care for those he deems his underlings.

Comes on the scene a young girl with her mistress who was a captive from Israel and is the servant to Naaman's wife. She said to her mistress "if only our Master would see the prophet in Samaria, he would cure him" There follows a lot of tooting and frowning and tantrum from Naaman, but in the end he does finally agree to do as the wise Prophet advises and follows the instruction to bathe in the river Jordan and, low and behold he is cured and restored to full health.

On his return Naaman is a changed man, vowing to serve the true God for the rest of his life and moreover he encourages those in his charge to follow. And to accept God themselves.

May this ancient tale remind us we should listen to advice, even when that advice appears a bit strange.

Blessings everyone.

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