

FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS ARE REWARDED

2 Kings 5:1-14

Introduction: Ever been rewarded for doing something right? Ever rewarded your children in some way for some achievement they accomplished? What about disobedience? Ever miss out on something special because you disobeyed? All of us are familiar with rewards for obedience and God is no exception either. God's Word teaches that whenever we disobey God eventually there is disappointment, often pain, and sometimes suffering, and of course the lack of any reward or blessing. The opposite is true with God that whenever we obey God there is always in some form at some time or other rewards. God gives us the story of a man called "Naaman" who wrestled with following simple instructions as they sounded silly.

I. MOST OFTEN OUR NEEDS GIVE GOD OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP OUT

1. Naaman had a dread disease and he had been to all the doctors but nobody could help him.
 - Naaman needed something more than just being healed.
2. God may allow or even send a need upon us.
3. What was it that God wanted Naaman to learn before he could be healed?
 - That God was the true God and to trust Him.
 - That by obeying God's instructions, even though simple, he would be rewarded.
4. God has not changed, nor will He ever change. God wants the same thing with us that he wanted Naaman to see and understand.

II. OBEYING GOD MAY OFTEN SEEM TO BE DOING WHAT IS NOT LOGICAL

1. Elisha's instructions make Naaman very angry. Why wasn't every leper rushing off to the river if jumping into the river would cure their disease?
2. God had not told everybody to go dip in the river, just Naaman.
3. Obedience to God isn't doing what everybody else is doing.
4. It is true that not everything God tells us to do will make sense to us, at that moment and we will often have the impulse to "adjust" what God said into something that we are more comfortable with or that makes more "sense" to us.
5. What if Naaman had not obeyed God's exact words? No healing nor knowledge that God is God.
6. Why is that we have trouble obeying God, too? The same reasons Naaman had - doesn't make sense, not rational, not normal, too much or not enough, according to our reasoning.

III. FAILURE TO OBEY EXACTLY MIGHT COST THAT WHICH WE WANT THE MOST

1. What did Naaman want most of all? To be healed.
2. What almost caused Naaman to lose being healed? Pride, anger, unbelief.
3. The same problems are our problems also.
4. Naaman went to the river, dipped the seven times and was healed. Only God could get the glory.
5. Have you ever done exactly what God said or did you try to "adjust" things to your fitting?
6. Obedience is doing exactly what God says, when God says and how God says. He never asks us to understand, just obey.

IV. THE RIGHT ADVICE ALWAYS ENCOURAGES OBEDIENCE

1. Naaman went to a man of God, a prophet, whom his assistants told him about.
2. Never seek advice from a non-Christian who could steer you away from God.

V. REWARDS OF OBEDIENCE WILL STRENGTHEN AND ENCOURAGE FAITH

1. Naaman was finally obedient.
2. His obedience rewarded the servant girl, a wife, a husband, a household, servants, an army, a king, and a nation.
3. God asks us to be obedient and the results are up to Him. We will never know all the results of our obedience and who all will ultimately be affected.

CONCLUSION:

1. Looking back at your life, can you see God behind some of the needs in your life?
2. Do you know what God has been trying to tell you?
3. Everyone is at one of three stages in our relationship with God:
- Obedient - Disobedient - Partially Obedient
4. Total obedience to God is always reward in some way.
5. It's not what/who you have, but what/who has you.