

Just Do It! (Main Service)

Derrick Thompson

June 25, 2023

James 1:22-25 (AMP)

²² But prove yourselves doers of the word [actively and continually obeying God's precepts], and not merely listeners [who hear the word but fail to internalize its meaning], deluding yourselves [by unsound reasoning contrary to the truth]. ²³ For if anyone only listens to the word without obeying it, he is like a man who looks very carefully at his natural face in a mirror; ²⁴ for *once* he has looked at himself and gone away, he immediately forgets what he looked like. ²⁵ But he who looks carefully into the perfect law, the *law* of liberty, and faithfully abides by it, not having become a [careless] listener who forgets but an active doer [who obeys], he will be blessed *and* favored by God in what he does [in his life of obedience].

The Story Of Naaman

2 Kings 5:9-14 (NKJV)

⁹ Then Naaman went with his horses and chariot, and he 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 to you, and *you shall* be clean." ¹¹ But Naaman became furious, and went away and said, "Indeed, I said to myself, 'He will surely come out *to me*, and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, and wave his hand over the place, and heal the leprosy.' ¹² *Are* not the Abanah and the 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 And his servants came near and spoke to him, and said, "My father, *if* the prophet had told you *to do* something great, would you not have done *it*? How much more then, when he says to you, 'Wash, and be clean'?" ¹⁴ So he went down and dipped seven times in the Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God; and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.

What Can We Learn From Naaman's Story?

1. Pride Will Keep Us From Experiencing All That God Has For Us

- a. He was a very proud man/status made him that way.
- b. When Elisha did not see him directly, he became offended. Disrespected.
- c. His first response to his unmet expectations was to give up and go home.

Proverbs 16:18 (NKJV)

Pride *goes* before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.

- Pride comes in many different forms.
 - Thinking we are better than others.
 - Thinking that certain tasks are beneath us.
 - Thinking we should be treated a certain way.

James 4:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰ Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

- God & the ways of God do not operate based on our way of thinking. (ref. Isaiah 55:8-9)

2. Who You Have Around You Matters

Proverbs 27:6 (AMP)

Faithful are the wounds of a friend [who corrects out of love and concern],
But the kisses of an enemy are deceitful [because they serve his hidden agenda].

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Psalm 141:5 (NLT)

Let the godly strike me! It will be a kindness! If they correct me, it is soothing medicine. Don't let me refuse it. But I pray constantly against the wicked and their deeds.

3. God Rewards Obedience

- a. Naaman dipped in the dirty water 7 times because that was what he was instructed to do.
- b. Dip = plunge or immerse something or someone.
- c. When Naaman went into the water, he went all in. Completely submerged.
- d. He became a **DOER** and not just a **HEARER**!

How Can We Put Into Practice The Things We've Learned From Naaman?

1. Check Hearts

Psalm 139:23-24 (NLT)

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. ²⁴ Point out anything in me that offends you and lead me along the path of everlasting life.

2. Listen To Wise Council

- a. People

Proverbs 24:6 (NLT)

For by wise guidance you can wage your war, and in an abundance of [wise] counselors there is victory *and* safety.

- b. The Word

2 Timothy 3:16 (NLT)

¹⁶ All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right.

3. Do Exactly What God's Word Says

Proverbs 30:5-6 (NLT)

Every word of God proves true. He is a shield to all who come to him for protection.

⁶ Do not add to his words, or he may rebuke you and expose you as a liar.

4. Trust In God And His Word

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NLT)

Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. ⁶ Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.

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Scriptures:

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