



Small Steps

Sermon Outline: Small Steps (2 Kings 5:1-3, 9-14, 15-16)

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Shaun: Don't underestimate the little things you are doing right now.

2 Kings 5:9-14 (ESV) 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,

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."

9 Naaman went with his horses and chariots and stopped at the door of Elisha's house. 10 Elisha sent a messenger to say to him, "Go, wash yourself seven times in the Jordan, and your flesh will be restored and you will be cleansed." 11 But Naaman went away angry and said, "I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, wave his hand over the spot and cure me of my leprosy. 12 Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Couldn't I wash in them and be cleansed?" So he turned and went off in a rage. 13 Naaman's servants went to him and said, "My father, if the prophet had told you to do some great thing, would you not have done it? How much more, then, when he tells you, 'Wash and be cleansed'!" 14 So he went down and dipped himself in the Jordan seven times, as the man of God had told him, and his flesh was restored and became clean like that of a young boy.

I. We're all blinded by the "bigger is better" lie (even just a little bigger than we are)

A. I'm not rich, educated, good looking, famous (enough) and devalue our potential

B. Modern perspective makes us believe if we don't have a global impact we've failed

Matthew 6: 25, 33-34 (ESV) Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. 33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. 34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

C. Each day has sufficient temptation, turmoil & challenge to fully occupy a prayerful 24 hrs.

II. **Small steps:** seemingly irrelevant actions, the little things no one notices, the insignificant, inconsequential & mundane stuff no one cares about.

A. We allow the enemy easy access to our lives when we overlook the **small steps**

Ephesian 4:25-27 (ESV) 25 Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. 26 Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, 27 and give no opportunity to the devil.

B. We give place to the devil, when the first motions of sin no longer grieve (pain or challenge) our souls.

C. Our defense is a simple prayer asking God to resensitize our hearts & increase our hunger for his kingdom and righteousness. (**Matthew 6:33**)

Shaun: Don't underestimate the little things you are doing right now, small steps 2 big impacts.

III. Our directive from God is to grow where we are planted. (Advice from Pastor in Oz).

A. Our private ministry qualifies us for our public ministry (what we do that nobody sees)

B. Faithfulness to the small plot of land God has entrusted to us is where the impact begins

1. The impact grows as we intersect & overlap with other believers plots of land

2. These spheres of influence go wherever we go, and faithfulness deepens the impact

2 Kings 5:15-16 Then Naaman and all his attendants went back to the man of God. He stood before him and said, "Now I know that there is no God in all the world except in Israel. So please accept a gift from your servant." 16 The prophet answered, "As surely as the Lord lives, whom I serve, I will not accept a thing." And even though Naaman urged him, he refused.

IV. Bedrock principle: nothing is anything unless it spotlights or points to God.

A. Elisha didn't talk to Naaman, didn't give him a great cure, didn't accept his gift

B. Elisha directed all focus and attention to God