

# “Behold, I Thought”

Adapted by: Michael R. Hughes  
(original author unknown)

**Text:** II Kings 5:11

**Theme:** To study lessons from Naaman.

## **Introduction:**

1. Relate the account.
2. His opinion did not remove leprosy, or God's law.
3. Was prejudiced, had it all figured out. Prejudiced, rebellious mind, unteachable.
4. Demanded God's law be set aside, prayer substituted, got angry.
  - a. That attitude is the same now with many.
  - b. It did not work for Naaman, nor will it work for others.

## **Discussion:**

- I. Possible for one to think wrong.
  - A. One can violate laws of thought, mathematics, chemistry, physics, (gravity disregarded, e.g.) nature, spiritual law.
  - B. Naaman reasoned wrong; wanted prayer.
  - C. Saul of Tarsus thought wrong. Acts 26:9-11.
    1. Sinned thus, Galatians 3:13-14; Acts 23:1.
    2. Ignorant of the truth - I Timothy 2:13.
    3. Had to learn, obey - Acts 9:6; 22:16.
  - D. Follow knowledge, not ignorance - II Timothy 3:16-17; 2:15.
  - E. Men often must change to be right - Isaiah 55:7; Proverbs 4:12; 28:26.

- II. Many sinners follow Naaman.
  - A. Demand prayer in lieu of obedience - II Kings 5:11.
  - B. "Mourner's bench, altar calls."
    - 1. "I thought."
    - 2. But God didn't teach it.
      - a. Proverbs 28:9.
      - b. I Samuel 5:22,23.
  - C. Mark 6:15-16 does not say: believe, pray, saved.
  - D. Paul prayed for Jews, but not to set aside obedience - Romans 10:1-3.
- III. Many today have the attitude of Naaman - (one says....)
  - A. "I thought" one church as good as another.
    - 1. Entered one unknown to the Bible - II John 9; Psalm 27:1; Matthew 6:18.
    - 2. Wrong organization - Philippians 4:1.
    - 3. Wrong names - Acts 1:26; I Peter 4:16.
    - 4. Wrong rule of faith - II Timothy 3:16,17.
  - B. "I thought" saved by faith only, without obedience.
    - 1. Dead faith - James 2:14,24,26.
    - 2. Obedience demanded - I Peter 4:17; Hebrews 5:9; II Thessalonians 1:7-9; Acts 2:38.
  - C. "I thought" pray down saving, converting power.
    - 1. Gospel - Romans 1:16; Psalm 9:7.
    - 2. Law of the Spirit makes free; Romans 8:2; James 1:21.
  - D. "I thought" sprinkling, pouring = baptism.
    - 1. Baptism is a burial - Romans 6:3,4; Acts 8:36-39.
    - 2. Body washed, not head sprinkled - Hebrews 10:22.
  - E. "I thought" playing authorized in New Testament.
    - 1. Singing only - Ephesians 3:19, Colossians 3:16.
    - 2. Playing a command of men - Mark 7:7; Matthew 23:20; Acts 20:20,27.

- F. "I thought" Lord's Supper only once a year.
  - 1. Instead of Lord's day - Acts20:7; IICorinthians11.
  - 2. Apostles' doctrine - Acts2:42.
- G. "I thought" one can't fall away, be lost in hell.
  - 1. Some cut off - John15:1-6.
  - 2. Out of the kingdom - Matthew23:41-42.
  - 3. Some fell away - Hebrews2:4-6; ASV
  - 4. Warning - IICorinthians10:1-12; Hebrews4:11.
- H. "I thought" I had time enough.
  - 1. Millions think this way - go unprepared - Proverbs27:1.
  - 2. Satan suggests more convenient time - Acts24:25.
  - 3. Today - Hebrews3:7,8,13; IICorinthians13:2.

### **Conclusion:**

- 1. Our thoughts do not determine right - Isaiah55:8,9; Jeremiah10:23.
- 2. Follow God's law, not Naaman's initial example.
- 3. Obey God today.
  - a. Naaman put it off but eventually obeyed.
  - b. Perhaps you have been putting it off and need to obey now, before it is too late.

### **Invitation:**