



Why People Come To God

Naaman

2 Kings 5:1-14

- Things of note about Naaman:
 - Fierce enemy of Israel and a leper – 5:1-2
 - Told that a prophet in Israel could cure him – 5:3-7
 - Offered grace through Elisha – 5:8-14
- Why did Naaman come to Elisha and obey him?
 - If he knew of Israel's prophets and Elisha's powerful works, why wait until now?
 - Truth: He had **no viable alternative**
 - Though Satan presented seemingly better alternatives, they could not cleanse or save.

Tax Collectors and Sinners

Luke 15:1-2

- Tax collectors
 - Matthew – Matt. 9:9-13
 - Zaccheus – Lk. 19:1-10
- Sinners – Lk. 7:36-50
- Why did they come to Jesus?
 - They had heard of Jesus and possibly saw the great signs he had done.
 - Maybe Jesus was the only Jew of notoriety, or the only spiritual leader, that would give them “the time of day.”
 - But these are not the whole of it, not the ultimate reason.

Saul of Tarsus

- Who was Saul?
 - A Jew among Jews – Phil. 3:4-6
 - Fierce enemy of Christ/Christians – Acts 22:3-5
- Saul's conversion
 - Confronted by the risen Lord, was blinded, and received his sight – Acts 22:6-16
 - Obeyed the vision – Acts 26:19-20
- Why did Saul come to Jesus?
 - No valid reason from a worldly standpoint
 - He knew of Jesus and his works, saw the risen Lord, was blinded and had it restored miraculously.
 - Saul had another reason for his coming to Jesus.

Why Did They Come?

- Naaman?
 - A dying leper with **no viable alternative**.
 - What the world offered could not cleanse or save!
- Tax collectors and sinners?
 - Like Naaman, they knew they were **sick and dying**, but in sin – Lk. 18:9-14
 - **Jesus alone offered hope** for their burden of sin—they had **no viable alternative** – Matt. 11:28-30
- Saul?
 - Maybe he had an edge? – Acts 26:16
 - He now knew he was a **condemned sinner** living in **rebellion** to God, and **Jesus was his only hope** – 1 Tim. 1:12-16
- **Until one comes to the same conclusion, he/she cannot be saved!**

Why Would You Refuse to Come?

- Do you think you have a viable alternative? – Lk. 12:16-21
- Do you think your sins do not condemn you? – Rom. 6:23; Rev. 21:6-8; Mt. 25:41-46
- Do you love your sin more than righteousness? – Jn. 3:17-21
- Do those around you provide no reason to come to God? – Mt. 5:13-16; Rom. 2:22-25; 2 Cor. 5:10