

Dorset and Southwest Methodist Circuit .
Written service for 9TH OCTOBER 2022 .by Rev J.E.M. Barber
Please use your own bible for the scripture readings

As we come to worship God today let us start by thinking of those whom we know and who are suffering in some way at this time and lift them up to God in prayer, and confess that often we have been so concerned with our own wants and needs that we have not really bothered about other peoples needs and suffering.

Take a time of silence to confess this and anything else that we know would not have been pleasing to God.

In the ministry of Jesus it was usually a friend or relative that brought a person to Jesus for healing but any one who really believes in god can do it. Do not think that you are not able to do such a thing - anyone can do it in love.

Read .2 Kings ch 5 v 1-4 & 7-15

The girl must have had a lot of faith to believe that God would heal a foreigner, but possibly she was the only one who had the message of salvation. The Syrians only thought in terms of human power and found that this did not work for Naaman.

Hymn: Hps. 476
Lord thy word abideth,
and our footsteps guideth
Who its truth believeth,
light and joy receiveth.

When our foes are near us,
then thy word doth cheer us,
Word of consolation,
message of salvation.

Who can tell the pleasure,
who recount the treasure
By the word imparted to the simple hearted. Amen.

The girl who was a Jew must have been very well respected for such high standing Syrians to act on her word.. Naaman was not a Jew and as we know today there is often a lot of suspicion and opposition between people of different faiths.

Today one might expect to be appreciated for helping someone, but if it challenges the healed person's faith or social customs then there could be social tension, reaction, or even persecution in some countries.

How often do we refrain from praying with someone, or inviting them to church for prayer as we know they do not usually go to church and we are afraid that it might be taken as criticism of their way of life and break friendships.

This is nothing new as you will discover when you Read "2 Timothy 2 v 1-7."

How often do we need to remind ourselves that a good Christian has to have the same qualities as a good soldier. Naaman had a difficult lesson to learn - to be obedient to the word of God rather than rely on human position or power.

Read on in the Book of Kings and you will find, as Naaman did , that obedience to the word of God is far more powerful than any human rules or regulations.

I have discovered in life that sometimes prayer is far more powerful than human skills or abilities and authority. I have been very grateful over the years for the skills and cares of doctors and nurses but I have also experienced and witnessed the power of prayer and that God can and will deal with problems that no human power or skill can do.

Hymn Hps 13

Praise my soul the king of heaven
To his feet thy tributes bring
Ransomed, healed , restored forgiven
Who like thee his praise should sing.
Praise Him, Praise Him, Praise the everlasting King.

- 2) Praise him for his grace and favour
To our fathers in distress
Praise him still the same for ever
Slow to chide and swift to bless.
Praise Him, Praise Him
Glorious in his faithfulness.

- 3) Father-like he tends and spares us;
Well our feeble frame he knows;
In His hands he gently bears us,
Rescues us from all our foes.
Praise Him, Praise Him! Widely as His mercy flows.

- 4) Angels in the height adore Him;
Ye behold Him face to face;
Sun and moon, bow down before Him
Dwellers all in time and space.
Praise Him! Praise Him! Praise with us the God of Grace!

Intercessions.

Let us take a time of prayer when we can name before God anybody we know who is suffering in any way at this time.

Let us pray for all who work in the medical profession and that they realise that they are dealing with God's creation.

Let us ask God to give us the courage to go and pray with them if that is his will.

Let us have the courage to ask others to pray and expect God to answer prayer once we have sought his will.

Let us praise God for all his love and care and make it known to others so that

they too may praise Him.

Let us pray for all those working in various missionary societies and face a lot of hostility from those whom they seek to save.

Take time to name any we read about in various society prayer magazines.

A prayer for those who have converted to Christianity and now face a lot of hostility.

Hymn Hps 770

Go forth and tell, O church of God awake!
God's saving news to all the nations take.
Proclaim Christ Jesus, Saviour, Lord, and King,
That all the world his worthy praise may sing.

Go forth and tell! God's love embraces all:
He will in grace respond to all who call.
How shall they call if they have never heard
The gracious invitation of His word?

Go forth and tell! Some still in darkness lie;
In wealth or want, in sin they live and die.
Give us, O Lord, concern of heart and mind,
A love like yours which cares for all mankind.

Go forth and tell! The doors are open wide:
Share God's good gifts with people long denied.
Live out your life as Christ, your Lord, shall choose,
Your ransomed powers for His sole glory use.

God Bless you as you go to do His work.