

“STEPPING OUT” REVISITED

Text: 2 Kings 5:1-19

- God calls us to step out of the boat in four ways:
 - Calls to _____
 - Calls to _____
 - Calls to walk in the path of God's will
 - Calls to risk-taking _____
- From the story of Namaan the leper, four reasons why people don't step out, as well as a wonderful illustration of what happens when people do:
 - I. SOME DON'T STEP OUT BY FAITH BECAUSE OF THE _____ OF MAN (vs. 1-5).**
 - Exhibit A = little Israelite _____, a small person with big faith:
 - To _____ out for God in strange land.
 - To believe God could do a _____ thing for her master.
 - To start a sequence of events that brought great glory to God.
 - Proverbs 29:25: The fear of man is the fear of what other people will think of me, say about me, or do to me; and it's a _____. It will keep you in the boat, not stepping out for God.
 - II. SOME DON'T STEP OUT BY FAITH BECAUSE OF _____.**
 - Exhibit B = the prophet _____ (contrasted with the little Israelite maiden)
 - He was evidently bitter against the invading Assyrians, so he _____ to obey God's call.
 - She was not bitter although she had also suffered from invaders.
 - Bitterness = a poisonous mixture of _____ toward self (self-pity) and _____ toward the person who hurt you.
 - The right way to respond to hurt is with faith, believing God is always _____, loving, and faithful (Heb. 12:15).
 - III. SOME DON'T STEP OUT BY FAITH BECAUSE OF _____ (vs. 6-8).**
 - Exhibit C = the _____ of Israel (Jehoram, son of Ahab).
 - He should have had more faith than the king of Syria.
 - He should have known what God could do.
 - He should have sought God's help from God's prophet, but he depended completely on his own _____.
 - Unbelief is proud, despairing, hopeless, and _____; and will keep you in the boat and not the experiencing grace of God more than anything else.

- _____ faith places absolute confidence in the Father's love and ability; and therefore draws near to God like child jumping into arms of father (Rom. 10:17, 15:13).
- IV. SOME DON'T STEP OUT BY FAITH BECAUSE OF _____ (vs. 9-12).**
 - Exhibit D = Namaan the leper. His pride was offended:
 - Because Elisha wouldn't see him _____.
 - Because Elisha didn't do some _____ work to heal him.
 - Because he was told to wash in _____ Jordan.
 - Faith = trusting God to do what He knows is best in His _____ and in His way.
 - Before God writes us a prescription for a powerful work of grace, He may have to write us a prescription for _____ (Jas. 4:6).
- V. THOSE WHO DO STEP OUT BY FAITH ARE GREATLY _____ (vs. 13-19)**
 - Exhibit E = the _____ Namaan
 - A. His Simple Test:**
 - To wash seven times in nearby Jordan was a simple test of obedience, with the slightest test of _____.
 - Sometimes we make walking by faith too complicated. The best approach is simply to step out in obedience to Word of God, especially His most _____ commands.
 - When we do, we will find God's _____ because He longs to bless us (Psalms 84:11).
 - B. His Supernatural Transformation:**
 - Before he was contaminated, but now he was _____ (a picture of God's power to wash away sins, Isa. 1:18, Rev. 1:5, 2 Cor. 5:17).
 - Before he was proud, after he was _____.
 - Before he was angry, after he was happy.
 - Before he was demanding, after he was respectful.
 - Before he was a heathen, after he was a _____.
 - Before he was _____, after he was generous.
- CONCLUSION**
 - God delights to reward _____ and those who diligently seek him (Hebrews 11:6).
 - Question: What step of faith should you take next, and will you obey?