**WAITING FOR THE FINAL WHISTLE**

**Introduction:**

* Footy Match – game may be won, but victory cannot be claimed until the final whistle blows
* Elisha & Naaman
  + Naaman was the archer who drew his bow and mortally wounded Ahab (Jewish tradition)

1. **Get the Story Straight**

* Servant’s story:
  + slave
  + Had a good relationship with Naaman’s wife

2 Kings 5:3 ‘…*she said to her mistress, “If only my master would see the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy”.’*

* King’s story:

2 Kings 5:6 ‘…*the letter that he took to the king of Israel read:”With this letter I am sending my servant Naaman to you so that you may cure him of his leprosy”.’*

* + King felt angry, manipulated
  + Where does healing come from?

types of healing found on the web:

* Energy
* Reiki
* Theta Wound
* Crystal
* Sharman
* Sound
* Self
* Forensic
* Energetic / kinesiology
* Digital
* Spiritual
* Healing set-up box
* Views in Christian circles about healing today:
  + No healing today [except by doctors]
  + No Christian should get sick
* God is still in the healing business today.
* “I am the Lord who heals you (Yahweh Rapha – the Lord who Heals)
  + Rapha = to mend, cure, repair, make whole
  + Physical, emotional, the mind, spiritual
* Elisha’s Reaction:

2 Kings 5:8b “*….Have the man come to me and he will know that there is a prophet in Israel.*”

* + God uses people – whispered in his ear
  + There is someone with an anointing from God in Israel

1. **Humility**

* What is our attitude in coming to Jesus?
  + God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble (James 4:6)

2 Kings 5:10 ‘*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”.’*

2 Kings 5:11-12 ‘*But Naaman went away angry and said, Í 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. Are … the rivers of Damascus, better than any of the waters of Israel? Couldn’t I wash in them and be cleansed?” So he turned and went off in a rage.’*

* Why was he angry?
  + He displayed his pride
  + He wanted ‘drama’
* 2 Kings 5:13 – faithful servant who talked sense to him
* Victory cannot be claimed until the final whistle blows.

1. **Healing**

2 Kings 5:14 ‘*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.’*

* + What if he had stopped at 5?

2 Kings 5:15 ‘*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. Please accept now a gift from our servant”.’*

* Remember what Elisha said?
  + (2 Kings 5:8b “*….Have the man come to me and he will know that there is a prophet in Israel.*”)
* Now I know….
  + Healing is a gift
    - It is God who mends, cures, repairs, makes whole
  + Healing is a glimpse of the Kingdom of God
  + Healing cannot be bought
    - Elisha temptation v16 –

1. **Faithfulness Challenged**

* Faithful = truth, stability, steady, steadfast
  + Faithful in living life to the level of understanding.

2 Kings 5:17 *“If you will not,’ said Naaman, “please let me, your servant, be given as much earth as a pair of mules can carry, for your servant will never again make burnt offerings and sacrifices to any other god but the Lord…”*

* Earth to build an altar on
  + Faithfulness challenges our old lifestyle
  + Jesus said: “*They are not of this world, even as I am not of it*.”   
    (John 17:16)
* Naaman’s Challenge:

2 Kings 5:18 “…*but may the Lord forgive your servant for this one thing: When my master enters the temple of Rimmon to bow down and he is leaning on my arm and I bow there also – when I bow down in the temple of Rimmon, may the Lord forgive your servant for this.”*

* + Needed time to get out of current situation
  + Don’t stay with bad company; bad situation
* Gehazi’s challenge:
  + Greed
  + Was not faithful to God
  + Was not faithful to Elisha
  + Deceived Naaman

**Conclusion:** Jesus has won the game, but our prize cannot be claimed until the final whistle blows.