

Expanding Our Playing Field

Intro.

A. What comes to mind when you hear the word “missionary”?

1. Going overseas
2. Someone who is trained going and teaching
3. The jungles of South America
4. Africa or Australia

B. Show power-point and talk about what a life changing experience it was to go to Haiti for the first time.

C. While the things we talked about in the beginning may be true it is not all. Today I want us to look at an individual who might be the missionary that you have never thought of even though you are familiar with the biblical account.

D. 2 Kings 5:1-4

1. You know the rest of the story - summarize rest of chapter
2. Usually when we deal with this text we talk about Naaman and his being healed of his leprosy.
3. Or we will deal with Gehazi and how his greed caused him to receive Naaman’s leprosy
4. But did you catch who the missionary in this story is? Naaman’s servant girl

E. What are some things that we can learn from this text that will encourage us to become involved in mission works?

I. We Don’t Have to be Someone Significant

A. Who was this servant girl?

1. A captured slave, probably one of dozens
2. No importance noted in this

B. What was her name?

1. We are never told - she remains just a nameless slave girl
2. No importance noted in this fact either and yet she was effective

C. Now I ask, “Who are you?”

1. “Well, Jonathan, “I am just a kid” or “I am just a teenager”; - In other words you feel like “I am no one important” or “I am not someone who is highly educated”

2. God throughout history has used people who were by worldly standards insignificant people.

- a. David was a shepherd
- b. Peter, Andrew, James, and John were all fishermen
- c. Even Jesus was a carpenter until He began His ministry

3. No matter how insignificant you **think** you are, you are valuable to God

- a. If God can use an insignificant, nameless slave girl, He can certainly use us!

b. **1 Corinthians 1:26-29** - *"For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God."*

D. Guys, God does not ask us to be someone great, He just asks us to be willing.

II. We Can Show How We Care for Others

A. She was fortunate enough to work in the house of a great man and national hero, however as great as Naaman was, he still had leprosy

B. Eventually this young slave girl spoke up and told Naaman's wife about Elisha who could heal Naaman's leprosy

C. Why did she do this?

1. Why did she speak out for a man who had her as a slave in his house?
2. The obvious answer is that she cared for him

D. What about us?

1. Are we like this slave girl?
2. Do we care others enough to speak out and tell them about the cure for their disease of sin?
3. If we do NOT care, then we won't feel the need to speak up and tell them how to avoid that fate
4. If we do care about them though, you won't be able to stop yourself from speaking up
5. Have you ever imagined that person looking at you on the day of judgment and saying, "Why?! Why didn't you at least try to tell me?!"

III. We Just Have to Tell What We Know

A. Look at 2 Kings 5:3

1. Can you imagine having a life-threatening disease and someone saying, "If only you could go see that doctor in Tennessee. He could cure you. I don't know his name, or where he is in Tennessee, but I know for a fact he could cure you."?
2. From what we have recorded, this girl did not know the prophet's name, where in Samaria to find him, or anything else about him
3. However she knew that he could heal Naaman!

B. Have you ever heard someone say, "I'd like to talk John Doe about God, but I just don't think that I know enough"?

1. First of all, if we are the ones saying this - shame on us for not studying more
2. Secondly, don't we know as much as this young girl did?
 - a. Don't we know that there is a way that they can be cured from their disease of sin?
 - b. Then we know enough to talk to them

3. **2 Corinthians 5:17** - *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."*

a. Just as Naaman was cleansed from a horrible, life-threatening disease, so have we who are Christians

(1) Have you been cleansed in the blood of Christ through the waters of baptism?

(2) Then you can start there and tell what you know - we can tell our friends, our neighbors, and our relatives what we did and why we did it

(3) You can tell them what God has done in your life! Then, just as this girl did, you get someone else to help cure them

(4) If you have never held a Bible study, you can get someone else to help - you don't have to do it on your own

(5) However you can tell what you know and open the door for a study

IV. We Don't Have to Compete With Others

A. We often think about all the things we can't do like someone else, and we have so many excuses for not doing it.

B. Think of all the excuses this young lady had:

1. Young
2. Slave
3. Not **allowed** to talk
4. Away from home
5. Didn't know anyone
6. Didn't know enough

C. Yet she still did what she could. Do we?

1. Maybe you are not as comfortable with the idea of mission work as you would like to be
2. Maybe you think that missionary trips "Just aren't my thing"
3. Maybe you have no experience

D. You can be like this slave girl and still do what you can

1. Who can you go with on a mission trip to help you get started?
2. There are congregations that have mission works you can be a part of
3. If all else fails you can start by praying for God to open doors for you

Conclusion

A. I want to challenge you to do just as Naaman's slave girl did

1. Honestly it wasn't much, but how different would this account be if it were not for her, especially for Naaman - the one who was cured
2. You may feel like you cannot do much, but you can make a difference in someone's life just as this slave girl did

C. We have seen today that we all have the makings of a missionary, so I ask, "What are you doing?"

1. Are you holding yourself back because we are not "someone"?
2. Are you showing how much we care for others?
3. Are you sharing what you know with others?
4. Are you doing what you can?

D. If you realize that you have not been doing all that you can for God I want to challenge you to make a change in how you serve our Lord. Let us pray.