**CONFRONTING COMMON EXCUSES**

**LESSON 11 – November 9, 2025**

“It’s Too Embarrassing.”

**Key Verse(s):** 2 Kings 5:11-12 But Naaman was wroth, and went away, and said, Behold, I thought, He will surely come out to me, and stand, and call on the name of the Lord his God, and strike his hand over the place, and recover the leper. 12 Are not Abana and Pharpar, rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? may I not wash in them, and be clean? So he turned and went away in a rage.

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**Summary of the Biblical Event**

Though Naaman was a powerful Syrian commander, his strength could not hide the weakness of leprosy that marked his body. Hearing that a prophet in Israel could heal him, he traveled to Elisha’s house with wealth, gifts, and high expectations. Yet instead of greeting him personally, Elisha sent a messenger with a simple instruction: “Go and wash in Jordan seven times.” Offended and angry, Naaman turned away, saying, “Behold, I thought…” He expected an impressive ceremony, not a humbling act in a muddy river. To him, Elisha’s command seemed both insulting and embarrassing, too simple for a man of his stature. Yet, when his servants urged him to obey, Naaman finally set aside his pride and dipped himself in the Jordan. Immediately, his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child. His story reminds us that obedience often requires humility and that what seems embarrassing in the eyes of man is often the very thing that brings honor before God.



**Examining the Motives Exposing the Flaws**

* He had grown accustomed to receiving high level of respect.
* He expected God’s work to be different because of position.
* He found the simplicity of the task to be beneath him.
* He was likely worried about what his servants would think.
* He was led by a misplaced prideful view of Syria’s status.
* His other actions gave his excuse some plausibility.
* Respect from others doesn’t give us any true rewards.
* God and His work are very much impartial toward man.
* Our all-powerful and all-wise God loves to work in simplicity.
* Humility, not image, is what earns real respect for leaders.
* We rarely have the standing & success that we think we have.

**Effects of the Excuse**

**1. It keeps us from obeying God any time His commands offend our pride or image.**

**Proverbs 16:18** – “Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.” **29:23** – “A man’s pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.”

**2. It causes us to value reputation more than we value repentance and restoration.**

**Galatians 1:10** – “For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.”

**3. It removes us from the blessings of God’s grace that come to the humble.**

**James 4:6** – “But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.”

**4. It binds our actions to the unfaithful and inconsistent standards of man.**

**Ephesians 4:14** - “That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive.”



PERSONAL APPLICATION

**Verse:** Romans 1:16 – “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth.”

**Reflective Questions:**

* What blessings might I have missed because I was too embarrassed to obey or speak up for the Lord?
* Am I more concerned with how I look before people or how I stand before God?

**Commitment:**

* I will respond in humility and not in pride.
* I won’t be led by a fear of embarrassment.

What does Namaan’s response show us about his overall disposition?

What is the irony found in Namaan’s feeling of embarrassment?

Why were the servants best suited to help Namaan overcome his feelings?

Did God purposefully choose an action that would challenge Namaan’s views?

Would Namaan have obeyed if Elisha had told him to go back to his land and dip himself in those waters?