



August 11 – Trips Gone Awry...A Trip to the River

We all have expectations. Perhaps especially when we're traveling. We want things to go the way we want them to go...and when they don't, let's face it – we often get upset and angry. Sometimes one little (or big) thing can change our whole feeling about an entire trip! Well, join us this week as we travel with Naaman and his response to the River Jordan being part of the trip!

Scripture:

Proverbs 3:5-8

Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. ⁶ Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take. ⁷ Don't be impressed with your own wisdom. Instead, fear the Lord and turn away from evil. ⁸ Then you will have healing for your body and strength for your bones.

2 Kings 5:9-14

So Naaman went with his horses and chariots and waited at the door of Elisha's house. ¹⁰ But Elisha sent a messenger out to him with this message: "Go and wash yourself seven times in the Jordan River. Then your skin will be restored, and you will be healed of your leprosy." ¹¹ But Naaman became angry and stalked away. "I thought he would certainly come out to meet me!" he said. "I expected him to wave his hand over the leprosy and call on the name of the Lord his God and heal me! ¹² Aren't the rivers of Damascus, the Abana and the Pharpar, better than any of the rivers of Israel? Why shouldn't I wash in them and be healed?" So Naaman turned and went away in a rage. ¹³ But his officers tried to reason with him and said, "Sir, ^[c] if the prophet had told you to do something very difficult, wouldn't you have done it? So you should certainly obey him when he says simply, 'Go and wash and be cured!'" ¹⁴ So Naaman went down to the Jordan River and dipped himself seven times, as the man of God had instructed him. And his skin became as healthy as the skin of a young child, and he was healed!

Questions:

- Have you ever been on a trip where what you expected and what happened were two very different things? What happened? How did you handle it?
- Have you ever had expectations, but then when you let go of them to be in the moment, what happened was even better? What happened? How did it feel?
- Have you ever had expectations of God – and God seemingly didn't deliver? Or delivered differently than you thought? What was your response? What might happen if you chose to let go of expectations and revel in how God is present? Try it this week!

Reading for the Week:

Monday: Jeremiah 29:11

Tuesday: Ephesians 3:20

Wednesday: Philippians 4:19

Thursday: Romans 8:28

Friday: Matthew 6:33