

A church that paints a picture of God

September

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Praise with joy : Laying Down My Idols

Reading the Word : 2 Kings 5 : 9 - 14

Opening the door of heart : Psychotherapist Alfred Adler said in his book (Human understanding), "Inferiority and superiority are like two sides of a coin." Have you had any experience expressing your inferiority? Or if you have some experience of showing a sense of superiority to hide your inferiority, let's share it.

Sharing the Word :

1. Naaman, who was the military minister of the king of Aram, was a gorgeous man on the outside, but he suffered from leprosy that he wanted to hide inside the gorgeous armor. (verse 9 - 14)
 - 1) Whom did Naaman go with when he heard the girl from the land of Israel and went to see Elisha? (verse 9)
 - 2) What did Elisha say to Naaman to do by sending a messenger? (verse 10)
 - 3) What was Naaman's reaction after listening to Elisha's words, and why did he show such a reaction?
2. Even though Elijah, Elisha's teacher, won the spiritual battle against Baal and 850 prophets of Asherah at mount Carmel, he was threatened with life by the messenger Jezebel had sent. 1 Kings 18, 19 : 2)
 - 1) How does Elijah react to Jezebel's threat? (1 Kings 19 : 3,4)
 - 2) Elijah ran away in fear when the situation turned out to be completely different from the picture he drew. Then what does he say to God? (1 Kings 19 : 10,14)
 - 3) What does God say to Elijah who says he is the only one left. (1 Kings 19 : 18)
 - 4) Why did God call Elijah to the mountain and show him a strong storm and earthquake, and what did God want to say to Elijah? (1 Kings 19 : 11,12)

Application and sharing :

1. God wants us to come to him as we are. We will experience God's mercy and grace when we honestly confess our weakness and sin saying 'Lord, have mercy on us.' Let's share whether we have honestly confessed our weakness and sin in front of God.
2. Naaman was angry at first because it was so different from the picture he thought. However, he broke his picture and washed himself seven times in the Jordan river and recovered from leprosy. And he confesses that he will acknowledge and serve God. When my picture is broken, God's will is shown. If we have experienced the picture that God works and draws after our thoughts, our plans, and our work are broken, let's share it together.
3. 'But even if he does not,' the confession of faith, and Jesus's prayer that 'yet not my will, but yours be done.' will make it possible to distinguish whether it is a picture I drew or painted by God. Let's share how we try to live with a picture drawn by God, not a picture drawn by ourselves.

Prayers that respond to the Word :

1. Let me draw my life and ministry according to God's will and plan, with my thoughts, passion, and plan.
2. Let it be a life of confession and discernment of faith that 'But even if he does not,' 'but your will be done.'
3. Let the patients of the Inland Church rely on Jesus even when they are sick and experience the help and treatment of the Lord.