

# IT JUST AIN'T THAT HARD

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Harvest Club Edition

2Kings 5:1-14

The scenario; Naaman is a great captain in the Syrian army who is also a leper.

A captive Jewish girl is servant unto his wife.

Tells of a great prophet in Israel that can heal Naaman.

The Syrian king sends Naaman with a letter of introduction to the king of Israel, requesting Naaman's healing.

He in turn sends him to Elisha, who by means of a servant instructs Naaman to dip in the Jordan seven times. Elisha won't even come out of the house, even though he had sent for him.

Naaman is outraged;

2Kgs. 5:12 *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.*

Receiving from God, *just ain't that hard.*

Satan attempts to create the belief that the things of God are hard, when just the opposite is true.

Prov. 13:15 *Good understanding giveth favour: but the way of transgressors is hard.*

It just ain't that hard!

## I. We Make Receiving Hard.

A. We expect to have to do more ourselves.

vs.13 *And his servants came near, and spake unto him, and said, My father, if the prophet had bid thee do some great thing, wouldest thou not have done it?*

1. It was too easy.

Mark 10:15 *Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein.*

B. Seven Ways We Make Receiving Hard.

1. Religious attitudes.

a. Produces a works mentality.

[1.] The early church attempted to make things hard, but Paul restrained them at the first Apostolic meeting.

b. Sometimes religious leaders lay more on people than they can bear.

Acts 15:10, 28-29 *Now therefore why tempt ye God, to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear? :28 For it seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things; :29 That ye abstain from meats offered to idols, and from blood, and from things strangled, and from fornication: from which if ye keep yourselves, ye shall do well. Fare ye well.*

c. The fig leaf the first act of religion. Adam could have merely repented, invoking 1John 1:9.

[1.] Grace is not a license to sin.

Gal. 5:13 *For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, It just ain't that hard.*

2. Attitudes and feelings of unworthiness.

It's all grace. God's not mad at you, He's crazy about you!

Eph. 2:8-9 *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: :9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.*

2Cor. 5:21 *For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*

a. Angels don't even understand why.

He loves us despite our faults and shortcomings and is not willing any should perish. 2Pet. 3:9

*It just ain't that hard.*

3. Respect of persons.

a. Naaman went to the king of Israel first. Heathen kings were considered gods.

[1.] The king was unnerved over being equated to God. vs. 7

[2.] Assuming the person of God is more burden than humans can bear, even though some try. We are children of God, created in His image, possessing Godlike characteristics, but we are not God.

[a.] That's why judgmentalism is condemned.

b. God can, will and desires to use all believers.

[1.] He did not respect nor expect Elisha to be empowered.

Rom. 8:11 *But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.*

*It just ain't that hard.*

4. Errant teaching.
 

2Pet. 2:1 *But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you,*

  1. Naaman had been taught in the ways of heathenism. vs.18
 

1Tim. 4:1 *Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;*

2Tim. 3:5-9 *Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. :6 For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, :7 Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. :8 Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith. :9 But they shall proceed no further: for their folly (results) shall be manifest unto all men, as theirs also was.*

*It just ain't that hard.*
5. Ignorance.
 

Hosea 4:6 *My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge,*

*It just ain't that hard.*
6. Anger. vs.11
  - a. At God's ways.
  - b. Produces stubbornness.

*It just ain't that hard.*
7. Human logic. vs. 12
 

1Cor. 2:14 *But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*

Prov. 3:5 *Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.*

1Cor. 1:27 *But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;*

*It just ain't that hard.*

## II. The Simplicity Of The Gospel.

2Cor. 11:3 *But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.*

A. Simply be obedient. vs. 14.

2Chron. 20:20 *believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper.*

1. Better than works.

1Sam. 15:22 *Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice,*

2. Mary, Jesus' mother, said at the marriage of Cana....

John 2:5 *His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it.*

B. Be willing to receive that which God has for you. vs. 13-14

John 5:6 *When Jesus saw him lie, and knew that he had been now a long time in that case, he saith unto him, Wilt thou be made whole?*

C. What have you got to lose? vs. 13

Nothing but your affliction.

## III. The Results Of Obedience.

A. God blesses beyond expectation. vs. 14

1. Baby flesh.

Eph. 3:20 *Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,*

Mal. 3:10 *(God will) open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.*

B. God's word and purposes are established. vs. 8, 15.

1. Produces faith and belief in God, not only in the receivers but the hearers and onlookers in life.

Mark 16:20 *And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.*

John 2:23 *Now when he was in Jerusalem at the passover, in the feast day, many believed in his name, when they saw the miracles which he did.*

Acts 8:6 *And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did.*

Conclusion; Don't complicate things for yourself, because it just ain't that hard!

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