

# Muddy Waters

A close-up photograph of a human hand, palm up, holding a stream of muddy, brown water. The water is thick and opaque, splashing slightly as it falls. The background is a blurred, shallow-focus view of more muddy water, suggesting a river or stream with a high sediment load. The overall tone is somber and environmental.

Elijah & Elisha

# Muddy Waters

## **Elisha/Elijah Refresher...**

- 💧 **Elijah calls Elisha to follow him**
- 💧 **Elisha leaves everything behind to follow Elijah**
- 💧 **Elisha asks for a double portion of the Spirit of Elijah**
- 💧 **Elijah taken up to heaven**
- 💧 **Elisha officially recognized as Elijah's successor**





# Muddy Waters

## **The Story... 2 Kings 5**

- 💧 The king and the people still have not repented of Baal worship
- 💧 Although there appears to be some sort of peace treaty between Israel and Syria (Aram), there are many border skirmishes and cross-border raids into Israel.





# Muddy Waters

## The Story... 2 Kings 5

- <sup>1</sup> Now Naaman was commander of the army of the king of Aram. He was a great man in the sight of his master and highly regarded, because through him the LORD had given victory to Aram. He was a valiant soldier, but he had leprosy.
- <sup>2</sup> Now bands from Aram had gone out and had taken captive a young girl from Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. <sup>3</sup> She said to her mistress, "If only my master would see the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy."



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## The Story... 2 Kings 5

- 💧 Naaman goes to Israel with loads of cash and a letter from the king – heal my servant!
- 💧 King of Israel despairs/tears clothes
  - 💧 “Am I God? Can I kill and bring back to life? Why does this fellow send someone to me to be cured of leprosy? See how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me!”





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## The Story... 2 Kings 5

- 💧 Elisha sends word...
  - 💧 “send him to me that he may know there is a prophet in Israel.”
- 💧 Naaman goes with “all his horses and chariots” to Elisha’s house
- 💧 Elisha sends his servant to meet him and say,
  - 💧 “Go, wash yourself seven times in the Jordan, and you will be cleansed.”





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## The Story... 2 Kings 5

- 💧 Naaman goes berserk...
  - 💧 “Are not the rivers in Damascus far better than any in Israel?”
  - 💧 Sounds embarrassing...
  - 💧 Washing once would be painful for a Leper, but 7 times?
  - 💧 Disappointed and humiliated

# Muddy Waters

## The Story... 2 Kings 5

💧 Servants:

💧 “My father, if the prophet had told you to do some great thing, would you not have done it? How much more then, when he tells you to ‘Wash and be cleansed?’”

💧 Naaman goes to the Jordan river and washes 7 times his flesh is restored like that of a young boy







# Muddy Waters

## **The Story... 2 Kings 5**

- <sup>15</sup> Then Naaman and all his attendants went back to the man of God. He stood before him and said, “Now I know that there is no God in all the world except in Israel. Please accept now a gift from your servant.”
- <sup>16</sup> The prophet answered, “As surely as the LORD lives, whom I serve, I will not accept a thing.” And even though Naaman urged him, he refused.



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## The Story... 2 Kings 5

- <sup>17</sup> “If you will not,” said Naaman, “please let me, your servant, be given as much earth as a pair of mules can carry, for your servant will never again make burnt offerings and sacrifices to any other god but the LORD.” <sup>18</sup> But may the LORD forgive your servant for this one thing: When my master enters the temple of Rimmon to bow down and he is leaning on my arm and I bow there also—when I bow down in the temple of Rimmon, may the LORD forgive your servant for this.”
- <sup>19</sup> “Go in peace,” Elisha said.





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## The Story... 2 Kings 5

- 💧 Gehazi upset with Elisha
  - 💧 follows Naaman and asks for money
- 💧 Elisha confronts him...
  - 💧 Was not my spirit with you when the man got down from his chariot to meet you? Is this the time to take money, or to accept clothes, olive groves, vineyards, or menservants or maid servants?

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## Major Themes

1. God is sovereign over all nations and all peoples
2. God's love and mercy is for all peoples
3. God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble





# Muddy Waters

## The Application

**1. When God doesn't meet our expectations...**

- 💧 **God owes me...**
- 💧 **Leprosy and sin**
- 💧 **Luke 4 – God does not belong to us**



# Muddy Waters

## Luke 4:24-30

<sup>24</sup> “I tell you the truth,” he continued, “no prophet is accepted in his hometown. <sup>25</sup> I assure you that there were many widows in Israel in Elijah’s time, when the sky was shut for three and a half years and there was a severe famine throughout the land. <sup>26</sup> Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow in Zarephath in the region of Sidon. <sup>27</sup> And there were many in Israel with leprosy in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them was cleansed—only Naaman the Syrian.”





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**<sup>28</sup> All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this. <sup>29</sup> They got up, drove him out of the town, and took him to the brow of the hill on which the town was built, in order to throw him down the cliff. <sup>30</sup> But he walked right through the crowd and went on his way.**



# Muddy Waters

## The Application

1. When God doesn't meet our expectations...
2. Pride is our greatest enemy in receiving what God desires for us
  - 💧 Humility
  - 💧 Obedience
  - 💧 Faith





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## **Isaiah 66:2b**

**“This is the one I esteem:  
he who is humble and contrite in spirit,  
and trembles at my word.”**



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Elijah & Elisha