

Thought for the Day – Tuesday 17th August 2021

By Revd John Marshall

The Israelite maid and Naaman the general.

Naaman the Syrian general was very successful but he suffered from leprosy.

In his household was his wife's maid who had been abducted from the Israelites, away from friends and family.

Nevertheless she cared for Naaman and told him that there was a prophet in Israel who might enable him to be healed.

Naaman with permission of his king mounts an expedition to the king of Israel, who is very worried. Elisha hears and tells the king to send Naaman to him.

Elisha sends Naaman to bathe in the Jordan. Naaman is not impressed – there were better rivers in Syria; but Naaman's servants convince him that he should follow Elisha's advice. And God heals him.

He is grateful to God and Elisha that leads on to interesting experiments in interfaith: and Elisha's servant has some get rich quick plans, when Elisha rejects reward, which has an unexpected outcome. You can read all about it in 2 Kings 5.

The maid is an impressive figure, she is a witness and a carer and has the attention of Naaman.

Naaman has earned the respect of his king and servants.

Jesus remembers this story.