

21.06 Naaman Healed of Leprosy (2 Kings 5:1–27)

✓ “*Check*” it out; opinion, inference, supposed conversation, or fact one can verify follows.

[. . .] Brackets indicate a remark to the teacher that should not be read aloud. They also indicate answers to questions.

Visuals and Tools:

- Pictures and other visuals found at the end of this lesson. Check “Activities” and “Handwork” found below for additional materials. Please give credit to the sources of pictures.
- (Optional) Flannelgraph from CEF’s “Elisha” with an outside background that includes a river or lake
- A pretend scroll
- Bible period plastic male doll of a human or a plastic soldier or just a piece of wood or plastic
- Container with enough water to submerge the above “doll”

Bible Time Tips and Terms to Teach: Vocabulary words are enlarged for flashcards at the end of this lesson. Print, cut out, and glue to card stock, or just print on colorful cardstock.

- *raid*: a sudden attack by a small group of soldiers to gain land, to take prisoners who would become slaves, and/or to take possessions
- *warfare*: a nation’s whole army fighting against another nation’s army. The victor could get money, animals, clothes, *etc.* This was called the *spoils* of war. A soldier, not the government or the king, had to meet his own needs during warfare. That’s why David took provisions to his brothers when they were in Saul’s army.
- *leprosy*: a terrible skin disease that was considered to be extremely contagious. During Jesus’ time, lepers could not live at home and could not get near other people but had to call out, “Unclean! Unclean!” when anyone approached. ✓ It seems as if having leprosy wasn’t quite so difficult during Elisha’s time; nevertheless, leprosy was a terrible sickness.
- *grace*: God’s freely giving good things to people who don’t deserve good
- *talents* and *shekels*: weight measurements of precious metals like silver and gold; it took 3000 shekels to equal one talent ([What Is a Talent Weight? Bible Units and Measurements \(learnreligions.com\)](http://learnreligions.com)). A talent of silver weighed about 75 pounds.

Scripture: (ESV)

2 Kings 5:1 Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Syria, was a great man with his master and in high favor, because by him the Lord had given victory to Syria. He was a mighty man of valor, but he was a leper. 2 Now the Syrians on one of their raids had carried off a little girl from the land of Israel, and she worked in the service of Naaman’s wife. 3 She said to her mistress, “Would that my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy.” 4 So Naaman went in and told his lord, “Thus and so spoke the girl from the land of Israel.” 5 And the king of Syria said, “Go now, and I will send a letter to the king of Israel.”

So he went, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten changes of clothing. 6 And he brought the letter to the king of Israel, which read, “When this letter reaches you, know that I have sent to you Naaman my servant, that you may cure him of his leprosy.” 7 And when the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, “Am I God, to kill and to make alive, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? Only consider, and see how he is seeking a quarrel with me.”

8 But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent to the king, saying, “Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come now to me, that he may know that there is a prophet in

Israel.” 9 So Naaman came with his horses and chariots and stood at the door of Elisha’s house. 10 And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, “Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored, and you shall be clean.” 11 But Naaman was angry and went away, saying, “Behold, I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call upon the name of the Lord his God, and wave his hand over the place and cure the leper. 12 Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?” So he turned and went away in a rage. 13 But his servants came near and said to him, “My father, it is a great word the prophet has spoken to you; will you not do it? Has he actually said to you, ‘Wash, and be clean’?” 14 So he went down and dipped himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God, and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.

5 Then he returned to the man of God, he and all his company, and he came and stood before him. And he said, “Behold, I know that there is no God in all the earth but in Israel; so accept now a present from your servant.” 16 But he said, “As the Lord lives, before whom I stand, I will receive none.” And he urged him to take it, but he refused. 17 Then Naaman said, “If not, please let there be given to your servant two mule loads of earth, for from now on your servant will not offer burnt offering or sacrifice to any god but the Lord. 18 In this matter may the Lord pardon your servant: when my master goes into the house of Rimmon to worship there, leaning on my arm, and I bow myself in the house of Rimmon, when I bow myself in the house of Rimmon, the Lord pardon your servant in this matter.” 19 He said to him, “Go in peace.”

But when Naaman had gone from him a short distance, 20 Gehazi, the servant of Elisha the man of God, said, “See, my master has spared this Naaman the Syrian, in not accepting from his hand what he brought. As the Lord lives, I will run after him and get something from him.” 21 So Gehazi followed Naaman. And when Naaman saw someone running after him, he got down from the chariot to meet him and said, “Is all well?” 22 And he said, “All is well. My master has sent me to say, ‘There have just now come to me from the hill country of Ephraim two young men of the sons of the prophets. Please give them a talent of silver and two changes of clothing.’” 23 And Naaman said, “Be pleased to accept two talents.” And he urged him and tied up two talents of silver in two bags, with two changes of clothing, and laid them on two of his servants. And they carried them before Gehazi. 24 And when he came to the hill, he took them from their hand and put them in the house, and he sent the men away, and they departed. 25 He went in and stood before his master, and Elisha said to him, “Where have you been, Gehazi?” And he said, “Your servant went nowhere.” 26 But he said to him, “Did not my heart go when the man turned from his chariot to meet you? Was it a time to accept money and garments, olive orchards and vineyards, sheep and oxen, male servants and female servants? 27 Therefore the leprosy of Naaman shall cling to you and to your descendants forever.” So he went out from his presence a leper, like snow.

Introduction/Review:

Syria and Israel had been enemies a long, long time. About 140 years before Elisha’s time (868 B.C.), David (in 1006 B.C.) had warred against Syria until he finally made them his servants and they sent him gifts to keep his favor. No country ever really enjoyed being under another king, and Syria rebelled often by raiding Israel or battling in full-blown warfare. When Syria and thirty-two other kings had fought against Ahab about ten years before today’s story (879 B.C.), Israel had won the war, slaying many, many Syrians. God had shown mercy and grace to wicked King Ahab.

Story:

Naaman’s disease

The captain of the army of Syria was a very important man, ✓probably next to the king in rank. He was the one who led the armies in war and perhaps the raiders in raids. The name of Syria’s army captain was Naaman. Oh, he was important! He was rich! He was popular! The king of Syria really liked him because he was so brave and had given victory to Syria. But Naaman had a problem, a big problem. He had leprosy.

Mrs. Naaman’s maid

Now, on one of his raids into Israel, Naaman had captured a young girl from Israel and had brought her back

to Syria to become a servant to his wife. We can't imagine how this little girl must have felt, ✓being dragged away from her parents to a strange land, serving Naaman's wife. Whatever she felt didn't matter, for ✓she was a loving and kind girl. She said to her mistress, "Oh, how I wish my master Naaman would see the prophet in Samaria!" Who was she talking about? It was Elisha. The girl continued, "The prophet would cure Naaman of his leprosy."

Apparently, Naaman's wife passed this information on to Naaman, and Naaman told the king what the little girl had said. "Get ready and go," said Syria's king. "I'll send a letter to the king of Israel."

So Naaman went, but he didn't go alone. He brought with him servants. He rode in a chariot; ✓all who saw him would thus know how important he was. He brought with him ten talents of silver, which was about 750 pounds—as much as the weight of a pony that is four feet tall. He also brought six thousand shekels of gold amounting to about 150 pounds—approximately what two Labrador retrievers weigh together. Besides the silver and gold, he brought ten ✓very costly sets of clothes such as one would wear before a king.

Israel's king

Naaman went straight to the king of Israel and gave him the Syrian king's letter, which read [Teacher, pretend to open scroll and read], "With this letter I am sending my servant Naaman to you so that you may cure him of his leprosy."

Utterly dismayed, the king of Israel tore his clothes. Students, why did people tear their clothes in those days? It was because they were very sad or worried. This king was very sad *and* very worried. He wailed, "Am I God? Can I kill and bring back to life? Why does this king send someone to me to be cured of his leprosy?! He's just trying to pick a quarrel against me ✓so that we will war."

Elisha's cure

Word that Israel's king had torn his clothes got to Elisha. He sent to the king this message: "Why have you torn your robes? Have the man come to me, and he will know that there is a prophet in Israel."

So here came Naaman to Elisha in his fancy chariot with all his importance; with all his servants, ✓perhaps in chariots too; with all his silver, gold, and clothing. "Wow! What a limo! What a great man to come to our town! . . . To our house! Wow!"

✓"Whoa!" shouted Naaman to his horses as he stopped in front of Elisha's house. If such a retinue had come to my house, I probably would have been out on my porch to greet the important person before he came to my door, but ✓Elisha didn't so much as peek out the window. No, instead he sent out a lowly servant, saying, "Go wash in the Jordan River seven times, and your skin will be healed and you shall be clean."

Naaman's anger

"What?!" shouted angry Naaman as he left the house. "Couldn't the prophet even come out of his house to see me? I thought he might have come, called on the name of his God, and waved his hand over my body to cure the leprosy. We have two better rivers in my country! Why, they are better than *all* the rivers of Israel. Couldn't I wash in them and be clean!!!!?? Let's get out of here!" He turned to go, being in a rage of anger.

Some of Naaman's servants dared to approach him: "My father, sir. If the prophet had commanded you to do some huge thing, wouldn't you have done it? This is just a small thing—'Go wash, and be clean.'"

Naaman's cure

"Maybe you're right," said a calmed Naaman. He rode to the Jordan, got out of his chariot, walked into the water, and began dipping himself in the dirty river. [Teacher, dip your "doll" as the children count with you.] "Once, twice, three times, four times, five times, six times—. Just one more dip." Will Naaman be healed of his leprosy? "Dip one more time, Naaman! . . . Seven times."

When Naaman came out of the water after that seventh dip, he looked at his skin. Oh, joy! It was healed!

His skin looked as if it belonged to a little boy—it was so healthy! “Surely, there is no God in all the earth but in Israel,” he praised. “Let’s go back to the man of God! ✓Oh, I am so happy. God is so good!”

This time when Naaman came to Elisha’s house with all his retinue, Elisha met him. “Surely, there is no God in all the earth but in Israel,” said Naaman, “so please accept a gift from your servant.”

Elisha’s refusal

But Elisha answered, “As surely as the Lord lives, I will not receive this gift from you.” Elisha wouldn’t take all this silver, gold, and clothing?! Why not? (I think I might have taken it.) ✓Elisha probably wanted Naaman to know that God’s grace cannot be bought, nor can one ever repay God for His goodness.

“Please take my gift; surely you could use it,” urged Naaman.

“Absolutely not!” answered Elisha.

“Are you sure?” asked Naaman.

Back and forth they ✓haggled, but Elisha would not take that gift.

“Well, then,” said Naaman, “let me take enough earth from here for two mules to carry back to Syria. ✓I will sacrifice to the God of Israel upon this earth, and never again will I make burnt offerings and sacrifices to any other god but the Lord.”

“Go in peace,” said Elisha, and Naaman and all his servants began their journey back to Syria with their silver, gold, garments—and Israel’s earth.

Gehazi’s sin

Gehazi, Elisha’s servant, had seen all that silver, gold, and clothing. ✓Perhaps he didn’t understand why Elisha had refused it. The more he thought about that great stuff, the more he wanted it. ✓He might have thought, “Naaman is rich. He doesn’t need it. I really could use some silver for my bills and to get something I want. Naaman won’t miss it, and Elisha doesn’t have to know about it. I’m going to catch Naaman and get some silver and clothes!” And Gehazi set off, running after Naaman.

When Naaman saw someone running after him, he stopped his chariot, got out, and asked, “Is everything all right?”

“All is well,” answered Gehazi, “but my master Elisha has sent me to tell you two sons of the prophets have just come from the hill country of Ephraim. Please give them a talent of silver and two garments.”

Students, what was Gehazi doing? [Lying, breaking the ninth commandment.] Oh, oh, Gehazi. This is not good. You will be punished.

Naaman, ✓still eager to pay for his miracle, urged Gehazi. “Why don’t you take *two* talents of silver instead of one. Here, take these two garments.”

✓“Well, all right. Thank you,” answered Gehazi.

Naaman tied up the silver in two bags. (Remember, they are 75 pounds each!) He called for two of his servants to carry them and the two garments ahead of Gehazi. But before they reached Elisha’s house, he took the silver and garments from the servants, put them in a house, and sent the servants back to Naaman. Then Gehazi went to serve Elisha.

Elisha’s knowledge

Did Elisha know what Gehazi did? What if Elisha never found out? Was it okay to get the reward if Elisha never found out? [No, it was still wrong.]

When Gehazi stood before Elisha, Elisha asked, “Where have you been, Gehazi?”

“I, your servant, have gone nowhere.” Kids, Gehazi, is now telling more lies. How bad is this going to get?

“Did not I go with you in spirit when the man turned from his chariot to meet you?” answered Elisha. “Therefore, the leprosy of Naaman shall come to you and to your descendants forever.”

Immediately, Gehazi went away from Elisha with the white-marked skin that indicated he had leprosy.

But Naaman went back to Syria and worshiped the one true God.

Lessons from This Lesson:

- We see Jesus:
“One would have expected that Elisha's servant should be a saint (even Ahab's servant, Obadiah, was), but even Christ himself had a Judas among his followers”.([2 Kings 5 Commentary - Matthew Henry Commentary on the Whole Bible \(Complete\) \(biblestudytools.com\)](#)).
- Be sure your sin will find you out. We cannot see God, but He always sees us.

Activities:

- Play dough: silver talents (bars); gold coins; robes
- Snack: Chips and “dip”
- Sing “He Sees All You Do, He Hears All You Say.” Listen to the music for this song at http://www.hymnary.org/text/he_sees_all_you_do. (A blurry copy is found at the end of this lesson.)
He sees all you do,
He hears all you say;
My Lord is writing [or use *watching*] all the time, time, time;
He sees all you do,
He hears all you say;
My Lord is writing all the time.
- Sing “Naaman’s Song” from [Naaman's Song \(gardenofpraise.com\)](#). Enlarged lyrics (no pictures) may be found at the “Songs” page of teachingthebibletochildren.org.
- Review Questions: (Game: A student who answers a question correctly may dip a plastic soldier or piece of wood one time in a container of water. If all the questions given below are answered correctly, the “man” will have been dipped seven times.)
 1. Who was Naaman? [Captain of the Syrian army.]
 2. What was wrong with him? [He had leprosy.]
 3. Who persuaded angry Naaman to obey Elisha’s instructions? [His soldiers.]
 4. How was Naaman healed? [He dipped seven times in the Jordan River as Elisha said to do.]
 5. What reward did Naaman offer to Elisha? [Ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten changes of clothing. (Students may answer without giving specific amounts.)]
 6. Why did Gehazi follow Naaman? [He wanted some of the reward for himself.]
 7. What was the punishment for Gehazi’s sin? [He got leprosy.]

Memory Verse[s]:

Psalm 46:1 God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. 2 Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, 3 though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling.

4 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. 5 God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved; God will help her when morning dawns. 6 The nations rage, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts. 7 The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

8 Come, behold the works of the Lord, how he has brought desolations on the earth. 9 He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the chariots with fire. 10 “Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!” 11 The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Handwork:

- Naaman Cup Craft. Instructions and printables are at [Naaman Cup Craft • MinistryArk](#).

raid

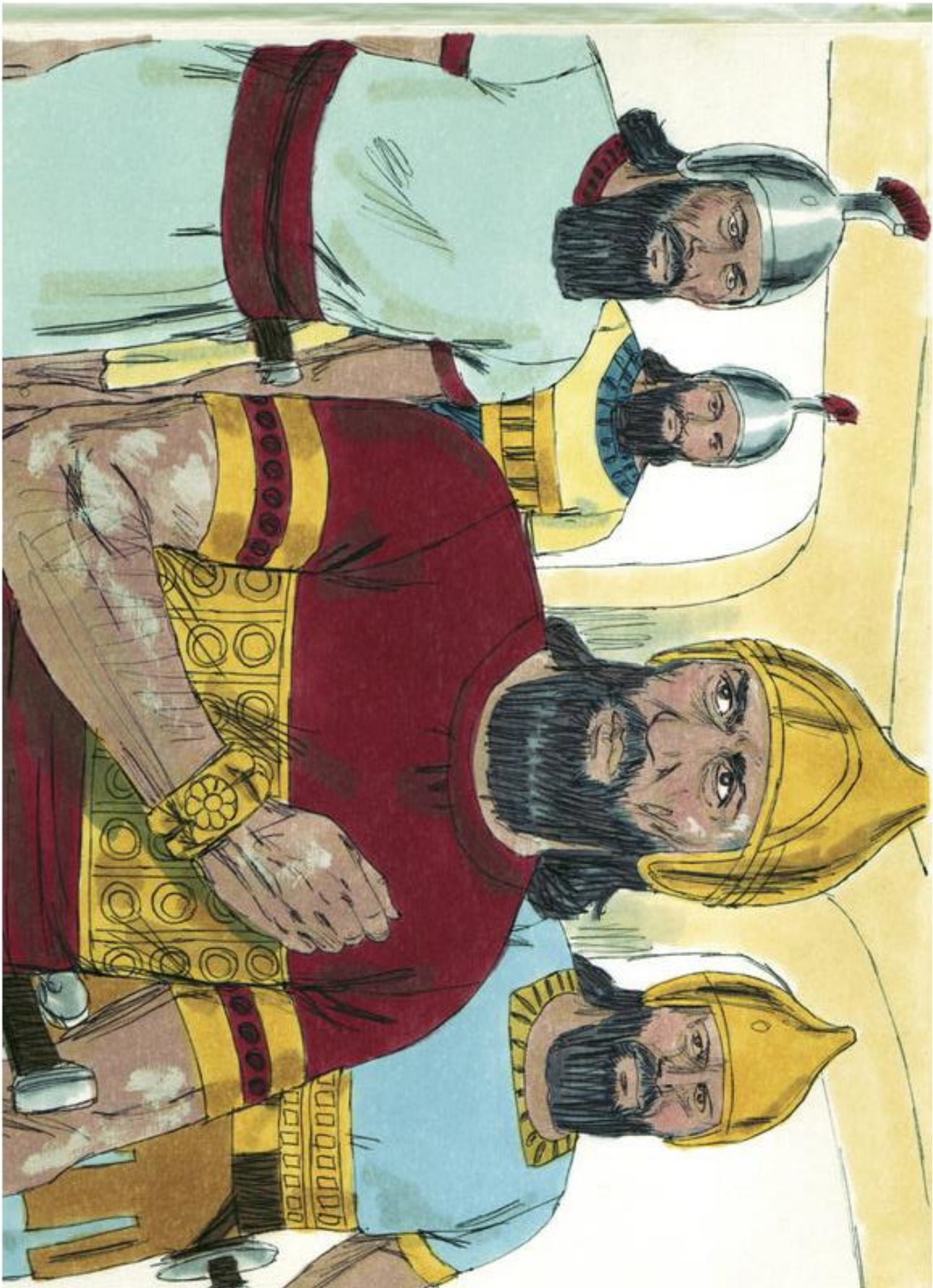
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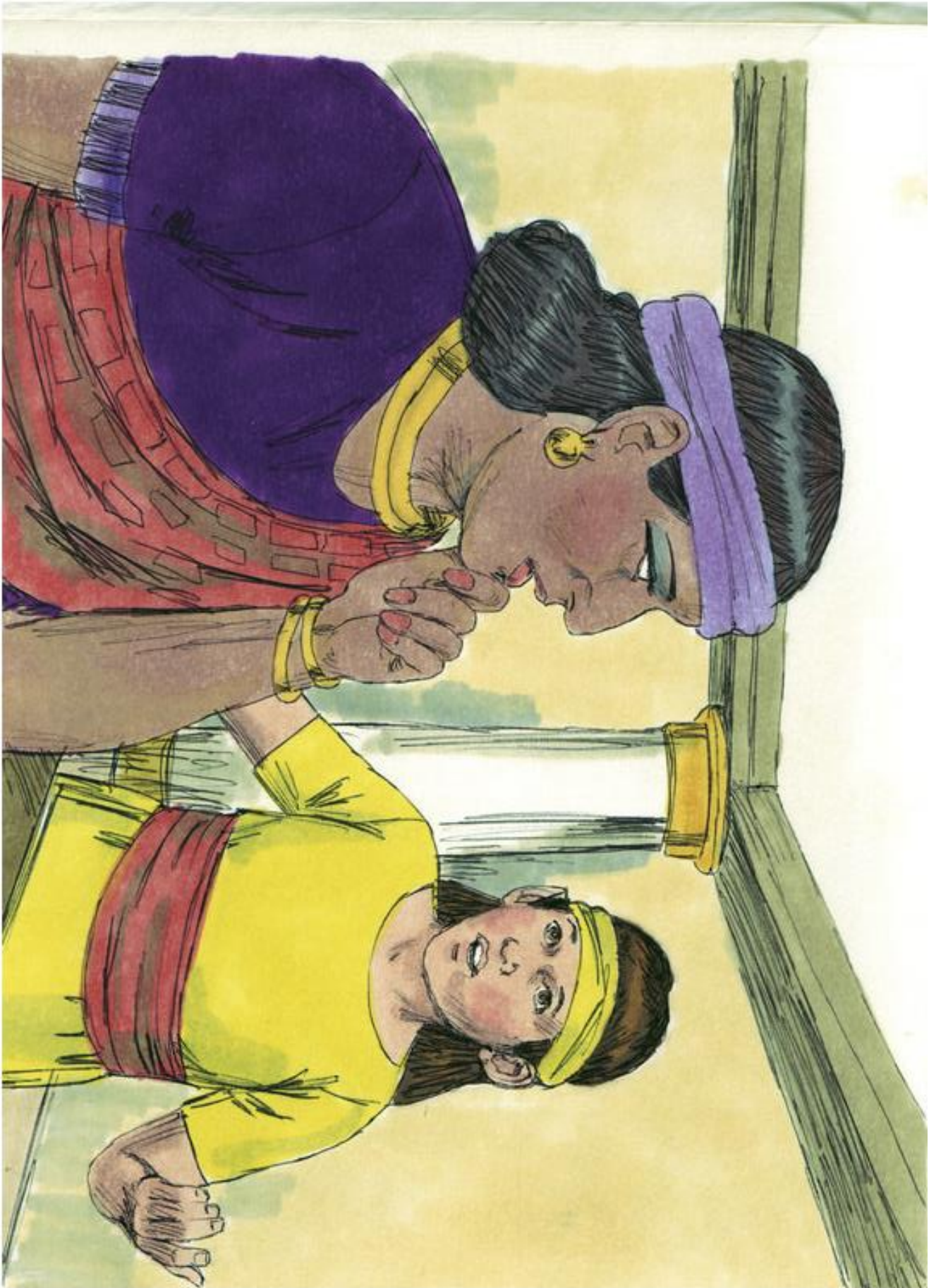
leprosy

grace

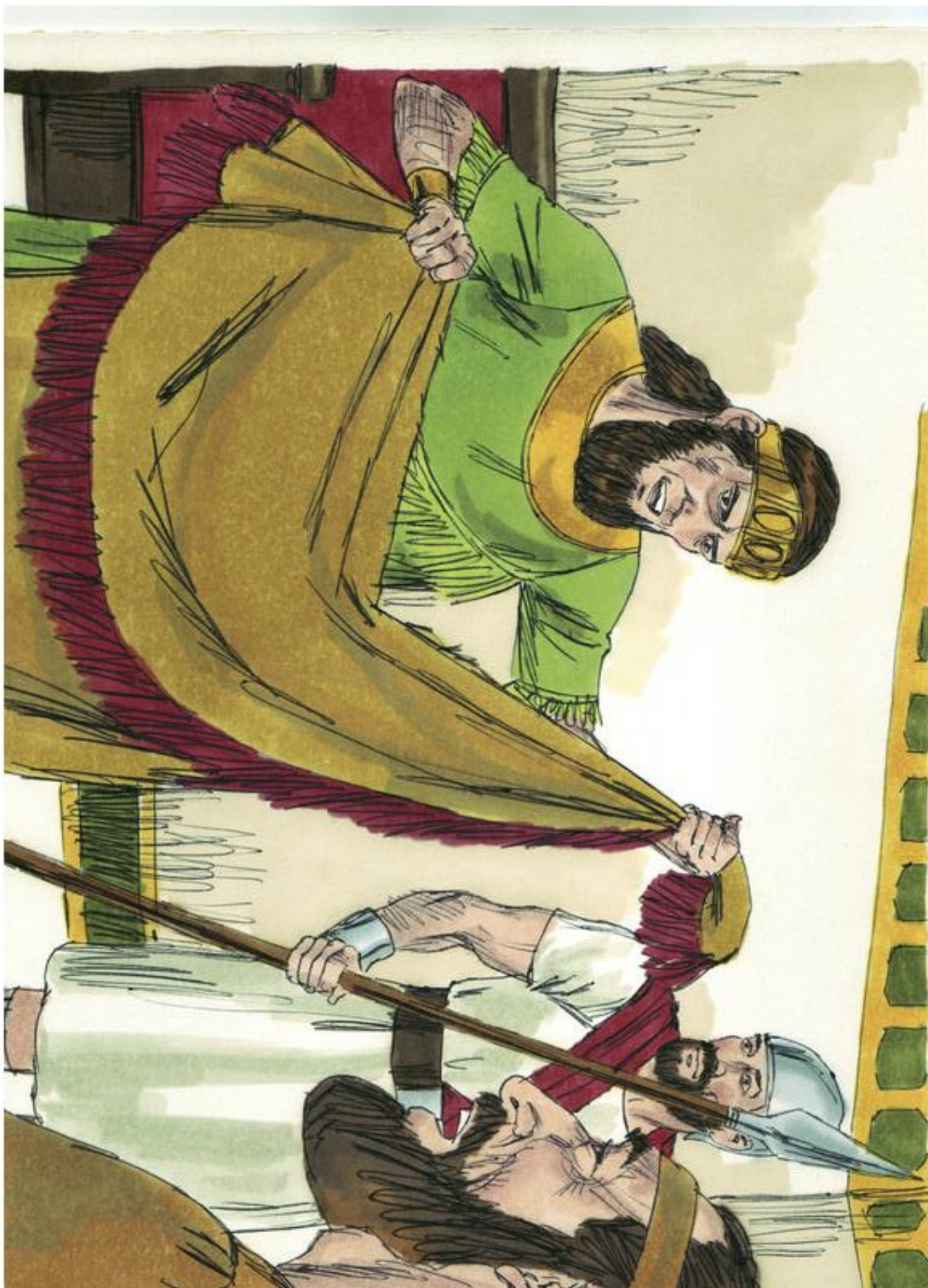
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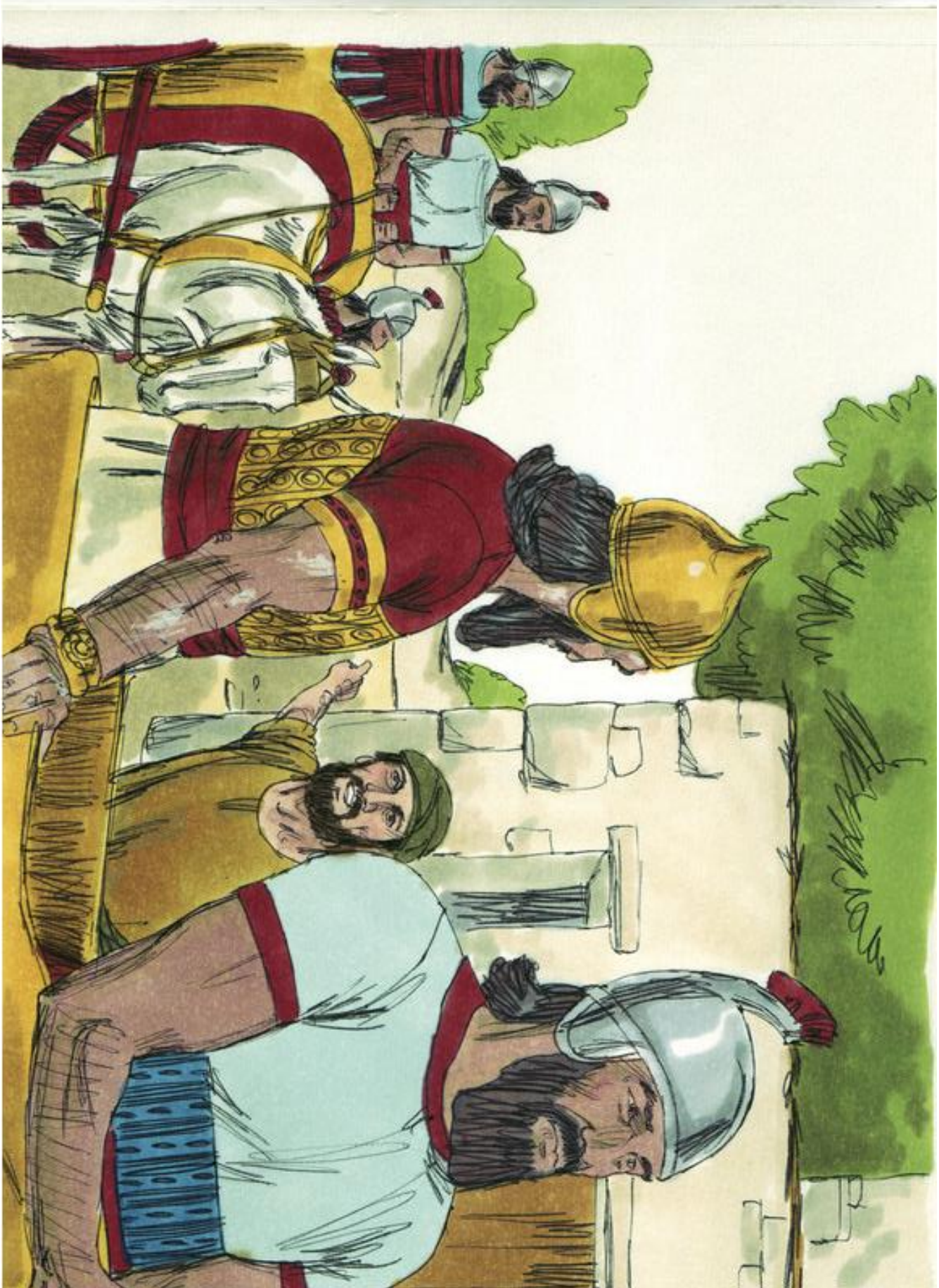
shekels



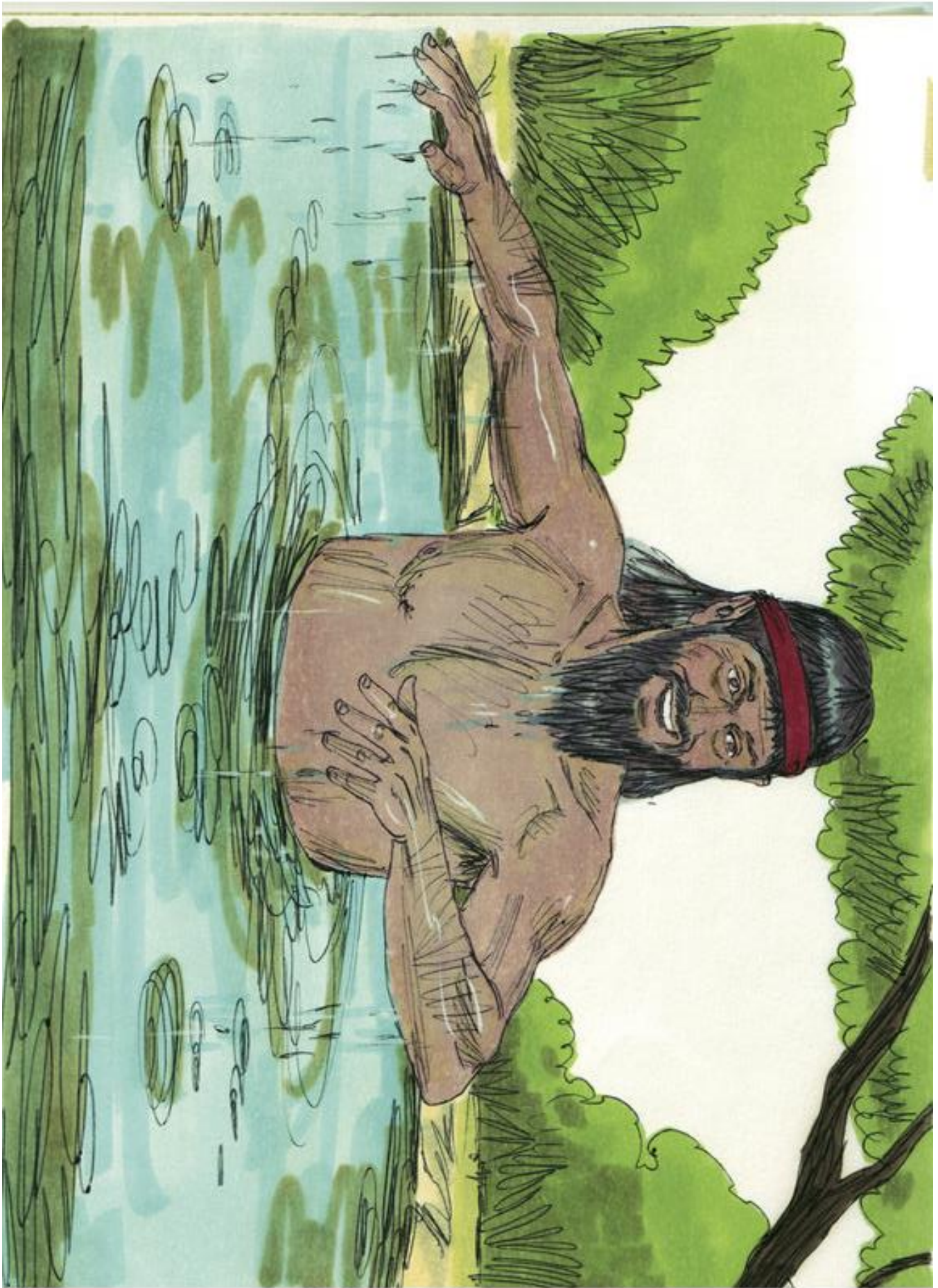




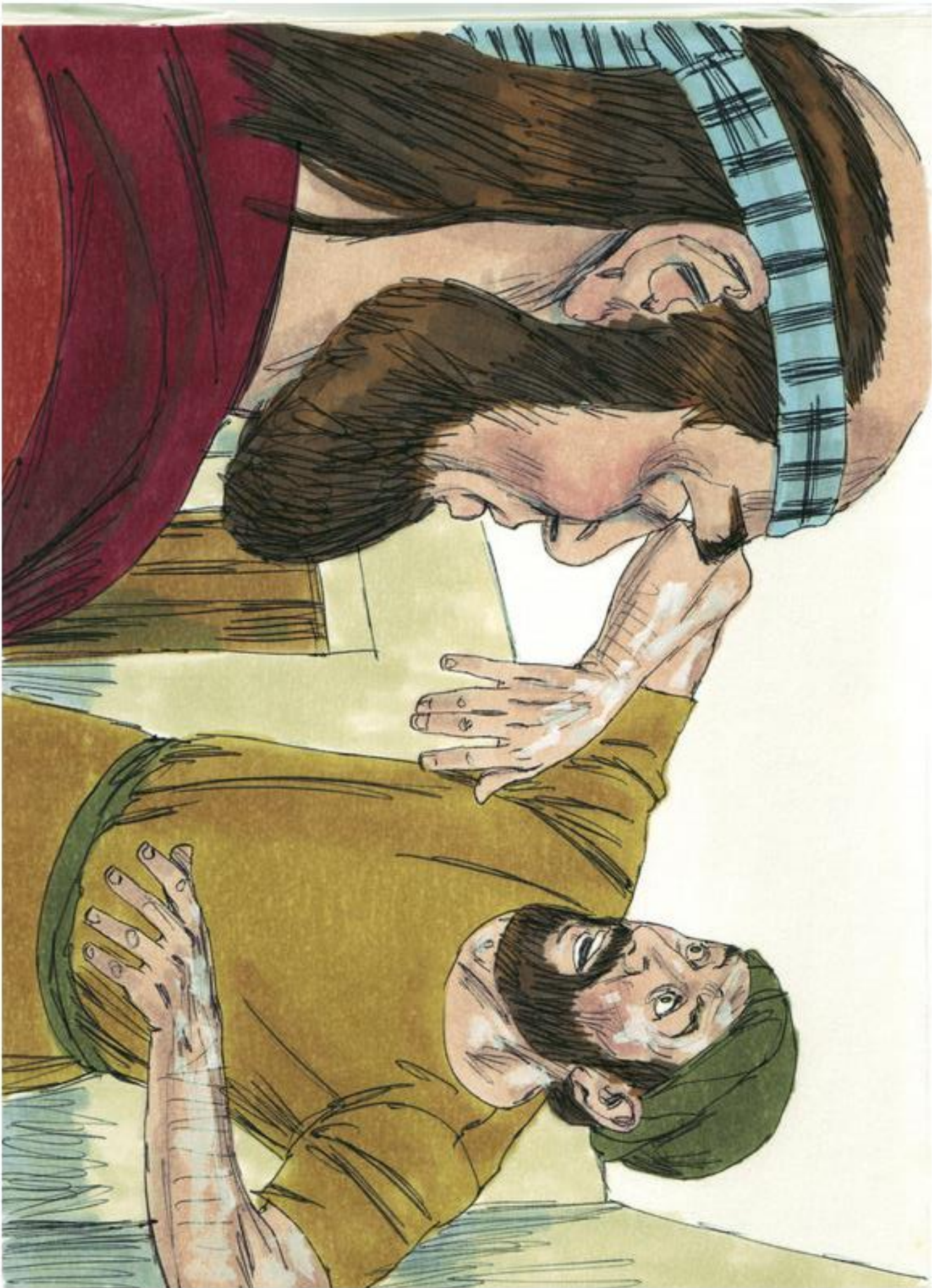












He Sees All You Do.

(Written Down.)

The musical score is written for a single melodic line on a treble clef staff. The key signature has one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody consists of two lines of music. The first line contains the lyrics: "He sees all you do, He hears all you say; My Lord is". The second line contains the lyrics: "watching all the time, time, time; He is all the time." Above the second line, there are two first endings marked with '1' and '2'. The first ending leads back to the beginning of the second line, and the second ending leads to the final measure of the piece.

Directions—1. Place right hand above eye, and gaze out. 2. Place right hand behind ear like a trumpet. 3. With first finger of right hand, write on palm of left hand.