

Is Baptism Foolish?

- I. Read II Kings 5:1-14
 - A. Though Naaman the Syrian was a great man in several ways, he was a leper.
 - B. A little girl from Israel had been captured and was a servant to Naaman's wife.
 - C. The little girl knew of Elisha's reputation and believed he could cure leprosy.
 - D. Someone took this little girl's statement and reported it to the king of Syria.
 - E. The king of Syria sends Naaman to the king of Israel with very many gifts.
 - F. A letter explains to the king of Israel that the king of Syria wants Naaman cured.
 - G. Since leprosy had no cure, the king of Israel was sure this was a trick to start a war.
 - H. Elisha hears of the king's predicament, and he asks for Naaman to prove God's religion.
 - I. Naaman arrives with a great company at the door of Elisha's house to see Elisha.
 - J. Elisha does not come to the door but sends a servant to tell him to dip 7 times in Jordan.
 - K. Naaman gets very angry at the lack of respect and lack of religious show to cure him.
 - L. Naaman also complains angrily about the dirty Jordan and leaves in a foolish rage.
 - M. His servants remind him that he would have done much more, why not much less?
 - N. Naaman humbly submits to his servants' wisdom, obeys God's word, and is cured.
- II. Read Luke 7:29-30
 - A. It was the common people and publicans who would be baptized by John the Baptist.
 - B. But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected God's word and would not be baptized.
- III. Read Acts 8:36-37
 - A. The eunuch, out in the middle of the desert, wanted to be baptized by Philip.
 - B. Why was it so important for them to stop at an oasis and perform this rite of baptism?
- IV. Read I Peter 3:21
 - A. Baptism is a figure of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, which is a mystery.
 - B. Baptism is the answer of a good conscience toward God, based on Jesus' saving death.
 - C. It does not put away sin, for it is only a figure; it is rather the answer of a conscience.
 - D. It is the picture of our Lord's death and resurrection for our sins (Rom 6:3).
 - E. It is the picture of our death and resurrection to walk in a new life (Rom 6:4-6).
 - F. It is the picture of our future resurrection after death (I Cor 15:29).
- V. Read I Corinthians 3:18; 4:10
 - A. If you want to be wise before God, then you must become a fool and quit your wisdom.
 - B. If you want to be like Paul, you must become a fool for Jesus Christ's sake.