

# **Ridin' High Cowboy Church**

8771 FM 35  
Union Valley, TX

**Pastor: Steve Bishop**

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

***Ride out and round up the lost cowboys and cowgirls  
Everywhere so they can know our Savior, Jesus Christ.***

### **October 4, 2015 ~ Trusting God When it Doesn't Make Sense**

Watch cutting horses at work...Pastor Steve's trainer, Pat Crawford, kept telling him, "Trust your horse." It's the easiest thing to do (do nothing), yet the very hardest thing to do at the same time. But there's a huge pay off.

What makes a great church? Great churches are filled with people who trust God. We are living in a time when it has never been more critical to trust God as individuals, a church and as a nation.

God will not ask you to do something that does not make sense from His perspective. But God does withhold information that we can't understand right now.

***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 of raiders 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."***

***<sup>4</sup>Naaman went to his master and told him what the girl from Israel had said. <sup>5</sup>"By all means, go," the king of Aram replied. "I will send a letter to the king of Israel." So Naaman left, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold and ten sets of clothing. <sup>6</sup>The letter that he took to the king of Israel read: "With this letter I am sending my servant Naaman to you so that you may cure him of his leprosy."***

***<sup>7</sup>As soon as the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his robes and said, "Am I God? Can I kill and bring back to life? Why does this fellow send someone to me to be cured of his leprosy? See how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me!"***

***<sup>8</sup>When Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his robes, he sent him 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."***

**9**So Naaman went with his horses and chariots and stopped at the door of Elisha's house. **10**Elisha sent a messenger to say to him, "Go, wash yourself seven times in the Jordan, and your flesh will be restored and you will be cleansed."

**11**But Naaman went away angry and said, "I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, wave his hand over the spot and cure me of my leprosy. **12**Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Couldn't I wash in them and be cleansed?" So he turned and went off in a rage.

Naaman couldn't see the connection between what God was asking him to do...will we trust God when he asks us to do something that does not make sense?

The reason God does not tell us the WHY up front: He knows how we are. If God tells us WHAT to do and WHY we will begin to trust in what (the process) instead of God.

The next verses tell us how important surrounding yourself with good people really is...

**13** Naaman's servants went to him and said, "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, 'Wash and be cleansed!'" (in other words, what do you have to lose?)

**14**So he went down and dipped himself in the Jordan seven times, as the man of God had told him, and his flesh was restored and became clean like that of a young boy.

**15** 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 (he never mentions leprosy again, the issue in his life was knowing God!) **So please accept a gift from your servant.**" He tried to pay Elisha for the miracle, all of this money was most likely stolen from Israel, and we know later that Elisha's servant did not understand this.

**16**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.

**17**"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."

Skip to 19

**19** "Go in peace," Elisha said. After Naaman had traveled some distance, **20** Gehazi, the servant of Elisha, the man of God, said to himself, "My master was too easy on Naaman, this Aramean, by not

**accepting from him what he brought. As surely as the Lord lives, I will run after him and get something from him.”** Prophets were very poor, so the servant of a poor man was VERY poor.

This did not make sense, so he came up with another plan to HELP God. Alternatives always look better than God’s will, so we have a tendency to go with them. God wants you to give him your whole life, we want to give him pieces, and keep some back for us, and the areas of your life you have not surrendered to God are the areas where the mess is. Gehazi thought this is too big of a deal to pass up, no matter what God says.

**21 So Gehazi hurried after Naaman. When Naaman saw him running toward him, he got down from the chariot to meet him. “Is everything all right,” he asked.**

**22 “Everything is all right,” Gehazi answered. “My master sent me to say, ‘Two young men from the company of the prophets have just come to me from the hill country of Ephraim. Please give them a talent of silver and two sets of clothing.’**

**23 “By all means, take two talents,” said Naaman. He urged Gehazi to accept them, and then tied up the two talents of silver in two bags, with two sets of clothing. He gave them to two of his servants, and they carried them ahead of Gehazi.**

**24 When Gehazi came to the hill, he took the things from the servants and put them away in the house. He sent the men away and they left.**

(he stopped at the hill, so Elisha could not see)

**25 When he went in and stood before his master, Elisha asked him, “Where have you been Gehazi?”**

**“Your servant didn’t go anywhere” Gehazi answered.** (how smart is it to lie to the man who just healed a guy from leprosy!)

How smart is it of us to argue with God, the angels must be in heaven saying, Steve is not very smart is he...It should be so obvious

**26 But Elisha said to 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**

(Gehazi is thinking, now I get it – you didn’t go out and heal him, why should we take money for what God did) **or to accept clothes – or olive groves and vineyards, or flocks and herds, or male and female slaves?** Now he understood what God was doing, but it was too late.

**27 Naaman’s leprosy will cling to you and to your descendants forever.” Then Gehazi went from Elisha’s presence and his skin was leprous – it had become as white as snow.**

This is the story of our lives ... I knew what God wanted me to do, and I didn’t do it.

There is a point where not trusting God gets us (I don't know where it is); there is a point where trusting God pays off.

The Bible says, "Every knee shall bow and confess that Jesus Christ is Lord." Every human in the world will someday say, "Now I get it, now I understand."

Some will not say, "I wish I had trusted Him" an eternity of regret...

Some will say, "I'm glad I trusted Him" – an eternity of reward ....