

2 Kings 5:1-14

Psalm 30

Galatians 6: (1-6) 7-16

Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

Notes on the Old Testament Lesson

2 Kings 5:1 - 14

As was mentioned in last week's message, Naaman had only contempt for the command to wash in the Jordan. The Jordan has never been a large river (see photo right); its importance is in its symbolic power; a power that is present in both the Old and New Testaments.



This week's story has an important element in common with the book of Job. In both events, the prophet is called to save Assyrians, an enemy of their people; indeed the eventual destroyer of their nation. Elisha had no reason to act for the well-being of Naaman. Yet Naaman was healed by following the prophet's instructions.

Notes on the New Testament Lesson

Earlier in Jesus' ministry (Mark 6: 6b – 13) he had sent out the Twelve; the inner circle of his disciples in pairs. Now, during the transition between the ministry in Galilee and that in Jerusalem, he sent out a larger number of disciples; also in pairs. We do not know the identity of this larger group. We can hypothesize that Cleopas, Matthias, and Justus were included in their number but there is no conclusive proof of this. Quite possibly, some of these seventy were among those who left Jesus' side as reported in John 6: 60 – 66.