So, I'm not sure if you noticed, but some big things happened on Tuesday. We had an election, and prior to that election, two weeks out the number one thing I heard was, I can't wait for the commercials to be over. And after the election the number one thing I heard was, I'm so glad, the commercials are over. What does that say about the actual election itself? What does it say about the world that we live in right now that we're so tired of just hearing people talk bad about one another. When somebody told me that I looked at him and I said, I am glad that the election is over because now we can start healing. Change can start happening. We can start thinking about what's next in our lives, and we don't have to think about whether or not we have to hit mute on the remote, so the TV doesn't swear at us all these negative things. We can start being ourselves again. I love when the election's over because of the change. Personally, I hate change.

In my life, I want no change at all. I am so comfortable wearing the same clothes that I've had since I was in college. I love not having to decide what I'm going to wear tomorrow, not any of that stuff. I want to keep things as simple as possible, but I know that change is inevitable. I know that we need to do it to grow. And with that, we also need healing. We need to find time and ways to comfort ourselves and to comfort those around us. I was talking to Alyssa this week as I was cleaning out my office, and we're discussing what changes are going. Oh, sorry. I just realized what I said. I'm cleaning out my office because of changes that are happening in the church. I've got all of these study guides and books from the 1970s that we do not use anymore. They're not applicable anymore. And so I'm moving my library from home into here because we have somebody that is going into ministry. And so, my book's here I can help her and talk to her more readily than anything else. That's why I am moving things out of my office. There's no other reason. That change that's going to be happening. That's already started. It is going to really change the faces of the church.

We have a moderator and as soon to be vice moderator who are under the age of 50. I don't know the last time that happened in this church. I mean granted Jim's probably close to 49, but realistically, we're really going to start looking different. Some of the things that we're going to do will probably be a little different. We'll have to explain things a lot better than this is how we've always done it. And those are good things. Those are good changes. That's going to help the church move to the next level. It's going to help us heal in ways that we don't know we're hurting. We might start seeing things again that we used to do way back when I was a kid and we stopped doing and nobody knows why. And maybe it's not going to happen. Maybe something's going to have to change going next year because we are an older congregation, and we can start healing on that too. There are a number of wonderful things that happen with change and with healing.

Today's reading, it's kind of a strange one in some ways because we don't really know much about who Naiman is. We know that he is a leper, but it's a strange kind, because even though he's a leper, he still has a position of power within his military. He still has servants. He has people that come up to him and talk to him. He's allowed to go freely everywhere that he wants. That wouldn't normally happen to a leper, so it can't be the kind that we normally associate with leprosy. We're also talking about Anisha in this. And we know he's a great profit, right? We talk about it all the time. Elijah hand picked him to be his successor. Remember, Elijah's only one of three people to ascend into heaven without dying. So he must have known something. So, who is Anisha? He's this great and wonderful prophet, but he's not a Levite. So

he's not meant to be a prophet. He's a farmer. So, how much can you know about these things? And he's a Samaritan? We're supposed to not like Samaritans, right? We're supposed to think that they're the bad guys. That's what happened during Jesus's time.

I see a lot of confusion. How can a Samaritan be the guy that everybody is supposed to go to? How's a Samaritan supposed to be the guy that has this great gifts from God? Remember during this time, Samaria Is the capital of the Israel Empire. It's the big place. It's where everybody's supposed to go. It's where everybody's supposed to want to be. So this guy of power, this military leader comes walking in. Why would he go to a Samaritan to get healed? Why would he go to a farmer to get healed? His wife's maid servant tells him to do that. She's a slave. She's a Jewish slave in this person's house. And she tells him to go and get healed. She knows that her God has enough faith and love in everything, that her God doesn't care who he is. Her God doesn't care how much power he has. Her God doesn't care about wealth, or status in any form. And she tells him to go to a farmer.

He doesn't believe, not at first. He knows he needs to go get healed. He knows that if he goes, he's going to go talk to the king Of Israel And get healed. He goes to the king, and the King says, I'm not a profit. Do I look like a farmer to you? No, get out. So he does. Nehiman leaves, and he gets all upset. And they're like, no, no, you want to go to this guy. And so he does. He gathers his army. He gathers all of his horses, all of his silver, all of his gold, all of his power, all of the show, and he goes to his farmer's house, And the farmer can't even be bothered to come out and talk to him.

I remember, as a kid, I hurt my arm one day. I was out in the field of Grandpa. And I'm like got blood coming down. And I go to show him. And he's, like, so,. I'm like what do you mean. So. He's, like, yeah, it's an arm. Put dirt on it. You're fine. And that's that's kind of what Naheman is feeling at that moment. Like, wait a minute. I need help. Here I come to you, and you tell me to go to this dirty river and wash it out. And he's ready to go. He's ready to weigh lay Samaria. He's ready to take out everybody. He is mad because he has all of this power. And he things this power is going to change everything, and then one of his servants comes up to him and says, if you would have told you to do something hard you would have done it, right? You would have done it. You wouldn't even questioned it.

Think about that for a second. Isn't that what we do? If somebody comes up and tells us something easy that we don't trust it? We don't believe that that's all we got to do. There's got to be something else. There's always got to be something else If they give us a huge task that just takes so much time and effort and energy. We do it because we figure the hard work is going to make the reward better. The hard work will create a bigger change. And that's what his servant tells him. Another slave, another Jewish slave to tell him just do it. Our God will fix it. Our God will make it better. And eventually he does. But he doesn't realize a lot is a thing that most of us don't realize. The hardest part to any change is asking for help.

If you don't ask for help, somebody doesn't realize that you need the help. You're never going to get the help, and you're never going to make the change. It makes it so hard to accept the fact that we know we need help. It's so hard for us to accept. Sometimes we need to make change. How many times have we sat there and we argued over and over and over about how many people are supposed to be on a committee? Which colors these are supposed to be? Silly little things, but we like to do that. We like to argue; we like to make difficulties for changing. But

what we're not doing Is asking. We're not asking how to do these things. What would be better for everybody? What would be better for me?

And we all know that I've had some backgrounds, and it took me a long time to ask for help. It took me a long time to realize maybe I need help. Now, I don't like it because I also found out I have a blood pressure problem, and I found out I have a cholesterol problem, and I'm taking more pills now than I did my entire life prior to this. But I know it's a change I needed to make. I know that, going forward, I'm going to be better for it. That's what today's reading is about. Is that sometimes we have to ask for help. We have to accept that point in this story. Who are you? Are you Nehamia? Are you somebody that knows that you need a change, But you don't want to ask for help? Are you Anesha? Are you the person that's sitting there and says, you know what? I've got a great church. I've got a great God. All you've got to do is pray, and we are taken care of. Don't you have to know what the problem is? Just pray, we're good. What about the maidservant who has the courage to go and tell somebody hey, I think you need. I think what you're missing out on is the fellowship and the love of God. What you're missing out on that can completely change your life and can bring healing to where you're hurting is this funny little place down the street?

In two weeks, we're going to be having our decorating party. Great time. A lot of fun. And right after that starts Advent, Last Sunday in November's Advent, this year. Doesn't seem right. It's throwing me all off on my calendar because I keep thinking other things. My timelines all off, but Advent and Christmas is the one season that affects the most people because there are so many people that remember Christmas from their childhood. They remember that happiness of being a kid. They remember going to church and spending time with loved ones. People that are in the community feeling that love because it's the only time of year that everybody shares that love, whether they believe in God or not. They all share that holiday. Love, that love brings healing. Can we bring more people here this Advent? People that we know need love and need healing, but are afraid to ask? Can we be the maid servants in their lives and hopefully bring them peace?

Let us pray.