

Christ Church Anglican—October 9, 2016
2 Kings 5:1-15

THE KING AND THE PROPHET: 4 Characters:
Kings and Prophets: The Church As A Prophetic Community

An Army commander—Naaman 1) powerful 2) sick

Two Kings—of 1) Aram (Syria) and 2) Israel

- political authority
- powerless when faced with real human need
- history of Israel—Kings increasingly led into idolatry
- God's response—
 - 1) raise up the prophet
 - 2) judgment

A Prophet—Elisha

- spiritual authority
- aided by true insight he discerned Naaman's real needs
 - 1) anger
 - 2) arrogance
- used simple acts to bring them to the surface
- Naaman ultimately repented. Results:
 - 1) healing
 - 2) joy

King = political power: prophet = authority from God What is the God-given role of the Church?

- Political powers of his day were hostile to Jesus
(Jewish leaders were joined with political power)
- Political powers hostile to the apostles—1 Cor. 4:9-16
(Served a different king; represented another kingdom)
- 1600 years of Church identifying with political power
trying to enforce Christian behavior by laws—ugly
- Most Christians have lived in hostile political environ.

How is the prophetic calling/role developed?

- We learn how to live in God's Presence
- In God's Presence we hear God's heart
- In God's Presence we are transformed into his likeness (message cannot be separated from messenger)
- We speak/live out God's heart in a darkened world

Mother Theresa of Kolkata:

Short. Never beauty queen. Serve poorest of poor. 4,000 members of community in 123 countries. Influenced a generation worldwide.