

**Maxine & Monique Martin**  
**March 5, 2018**

**(Maxine)** In today's reading, Naaman, the army commander of the king of Aram, was sent to Israel to be cleansed of his leprosy. He went there expecting a prophet to pray to the Lord and quickly wave his hands over the spots so he could be cured. Instead, Elisha, the man of God, told Naaman to "Go wash seven times in the Jordan, and your flesh will heal, and you will be clean." Naaman became angry because he thought it was unnecessary for him to travel all the way to Israel when he could've just washed in rivers better than the ones here. His servant persuaded him to do what Elisha said and in the end his leprosy was gone.

**(Monique)** So, things don't always go the way we think they should. One time, I doubted God was at a cheer competition. We had practiced many nights, almost everyday, to prepare ourselves. After performing, my team and I knew that it was not the best we could have done. Our coaches got the scores and they were not pleased. It was time for awards, and I remember praying to God we would not get last place. I prayed and prayed and thought, "he probably isn't listening right now" and I just gave up. Our division was being called and I had the attitude like "I didn't care anymore because we are probably getting last place." Moments later I heard my team name called for First Place! And I just kept thanking God.

**(Maxine)** Everyday, I have to remind myself to let God guide me towards the future he has planned for me. I like to be in control; and it scares me to put my life in God's hands, but he is the only one who will help me find my purpose in life.

**(Monique)** We learned from this reading that the journey may not always be what we expect, and it may take a little longer than necessary to get to the end result. We need to put our faith in God, and not doubt Him because He always knows what's best for us and in the end His plan is best!