

SO THEY CAME AND CALLED

2 Kings 6:24-7:20

Text: 2 Kings 7:10

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So they came and called unto the porter of the city: and they told them, saying, We came to the camp of the Syrians, and, behold, there was no man there, neither voice of man, but horses tied, and asses tied, and the tents as they were.

Introduction:

In this story I see the lepers as a picture of the lost being born again. At the time of this story there was a great famine in Samaria going on. And Benhadad the king of Syria came and besieged Samaria. Syria would not allow food to be brought into Samaria. It got so bad that the head of a donkey was sold for an outrageous amount of money, along with vegetables. The situation had got so bad that they resorted to cannibalism just to survive.

So the king sent a man to take the head off of the prophet of God, and Elisha instructed the men in the house with him to hold the door and not let the murderer in. So a strange conversation took place through the door. Elisha tells the king and his messenger that tomorrow that a measure of fine flour would be sold for a shekel and two measures of barley for a shekel in the gate of Samaria. This was the very group that was keeping food out of Syria. So the

messenger and the king didn't believe the word of the prophet.

(Notice verse 2)

(2 Kings 7:2) "Then a lord on whose hand the king leaned answered the man of God, and said, **Behold, if the LORD would make windows in heaven, might this thing be?** And he said, Behold, thou shalt see *it* with thine eyes, but shalt not eat thereof."

Now that brings us to our text. Outside the city were four lepers, who were just about to starve. They said one to another if this leprosy doesn't kill us, starvation will. Why are we sitting here until we die. Let's fall into the hands of the Syrians, and if they save us, then we will live, and if not, we haven't lost nothing.

Mean while as these lepers are making their way to Syria, God caused the Syrians to hear the noise of chariots and a great host. They thought that they were being attacked, and so they fled.

So when the lepers entered the city they entered enemy territory with no enemy around. What a wonderful Savior we have that brings us to the point and takes care of every thing to bring about Salvation.

I believe that these lepers remind us Christians of:

1. THE PAST (THE WAY WE WERE) VS. 3-5

(2 Kings 7:3-5) "And there were four leprous men at the entering in of the gate: and they said one to another, Why sit we here until we die? {4} If we say, We will enter into the city, then the famine is in the city, and we shall die there: and if we sit still here, we die also. Now therefore come, and let us fall unto the host of the Syrians: if they save us alive, we shall live; and if they kill us, we shall but die. {5} And they rose up in the twilight, to go unto the camp of the Syrians: and when they were come to the uttermost part of the camp of Syria, behold, *there was* no man there."

A. Hurting (vs 3)

1. All who are without Christ are hurting.

Illustration:

People walking around with blue hair, tattoos, and tongue pierced.

B. Hungry (vs 4)

1. All who are without Christ are hungry for something better.

Illustration:

Psychics, Drugs, Sex, Alcohol

C. Honest (vss 4-5)

1. No one gets saved until they honestly admit that they are a sinner and turns to Christ.

2. THE PRESENT (THE WAY WE ARE.) VSS. 8

(2 Kings 7:8) "And when these lepers came to the uttermost part of the camp, they went into one tent, and did eat and drink, and carried thence silver, and gold, and raiment, and went and hid *it*; and came again, and entered into another tent, and carried thence *also*, and went and hid *it*."

A. Substance (see Eph 1:3)

(Ephesians 1:3) "Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly *places* in Christ:"

1. We have great riches in Christ.

a. Everlasting Life.

(John 3:16) "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, who whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

b. Everlasting supply

(Philippians 4:19) "But my God shall **supply** all your **need** according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

c. Everlasting presence

(Hebrews 13:5) "*Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will **never leave thee**, nor forsake thee.*"

d. Everlasting friendship

(Proverbs 18:24) "A man *that hath* friends must show himself friendly: and there is a **friend *that sticketh*** closer than a brother."

B. Satisfaction

1. We have great satisfaction in what Christ has done for us.

C. Selfishness

1. Too often we keep the joy in Christ to ourselves.

3. THE PROMOTION (THE WAY WE SHOULD BE.) VSS 9-20

(2 Kings 7:9-20) "Then they said one to another, We do not well: this day *is* a day of good tidings, and we hold our peace: if we tarry till the morning light, some mischief will come upon us: now therefore come, that we may go and tell the king's household. {10} So they came and called unto the porter of the city: and they told them, saying, We came to the camp of the Syrians, and, behold, *there was* no man there, neither voice of man, but horses tied, and asses tied, and the tents as they *were*. {11} And he called the porters; and they told *it* to the king's house

within. {12} And the king arose in the night, and said unto his servants, I will now show you what the Syrians have done to us. They know that we *be* hungry; therefore are they gone out of the camp to hide themselves in the field, saying, When they come out of the city, we shall catch them alive, and get into the city. {13} And one of his servants answered and said, Let *some* take, I pray thee, five of the horses that remain, which are left in the city, (behold, they *are* as all the multitude of Israel that are left in it: behold, *I say*, they *are* even as all the multitude of the Israelites that are consumed:) and let us send and see. {14} They took therefore two chariot horses; and the king sent after the host of the Syrians, saying, Go and see. {15} And they went after them unto Jordan: and, lo, all the way *was* full of garments and vessels, which the Syrians had cast away in their haste. And the messengers returned, and told the king. {16} And the people went out, and spoiled the tents of the Syrians. So a measure of fine flour was *sold* for a shekel, and two measures of barley for a shekel, according to the word of the LORD. {17} And the king appointed the lord on whose hand he leaned to have the charge of the gate: and the people trode upon him in the gate, and he died, as the man of God had said, who spake when the king came down to him. {18} And it came to pass as the man of God had spoken to the king, saying, Two measures of barley for a shekel, and a measure of fine flour for a shekel, shall be to morrow about this time in the gate of Samaria: {19} And that lord answered the man of God, and said, Now, behold, *if* the LORD should make windows in heaven, might such a thing be? And he said, Behold, thou shalt see it with thine eyes, but shalt not eat thereof. {20} And so it fell out unto him: for the people trode upon him in the gate, and he died."

Notice: These lepers were:

A. Convicted (vs 9)

(2 Kings 7:9) "Then they said one to another, We do not well: this day *is* a day of good tidings, and we hold our peace: if we

tarry till the morning light, some mischief will come upon us: now therefore come, that we may go and tell the king's household."

1. We need not keep silent about our salvation.

(Psalms 107:2) "Let the redeemed of the LORD say *so*, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy;"

B. Convincing (vss 10-11)

(2 Kings 7:10-11) "**So they came and called** unto the porter of the city: and they told them, saying, We came to the camp of the Syrians, and, behold, *there was* no man there, neither voice of man, but horses tied, and asses tied, and the tents as they *were*. {11} And he called the porters; and they told *it* to the king's house within."

1. We need to be convincing others of the joy of salvation and their need of salvation.

(1 Peter 3:15) "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and *be* ready always to *give* an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:"

C. Compelling (vss 13-16)

(2 Kings 7:13-16) "And one of his servants answered and said, Let *some* take, I pray thee, five of the horses that remain, which are left in the city, (behold, they *are* as all the multitude of Israel that are left in it: behold, *I say*, they *are* even as all the multitude of the Israelites that are consumed:) and let us send and see. {14} They took therefore two chariot horses; and the king sent after

the host of the Syrians, saying, Go and see. {15} And they went after them unto Jordan: and, lo, all the way *was* full of garments and vessels, which the Syrians had cast away in their haste. And the messengers returned, and told the king. {16} And the people went out, and spoiled the tents of the Syrians. So a measure of fine flour was *sold* for a shekel, and two measures of barley for a shekel, according to the word of the LORD."

1. As a result of these lepers salvation, and their willingness to share that with others, many were saved and spared.

Close:

They came and called. What are you doing to help bring salvation to a lost and dying world?