

THIS IS A DAY OF GOOD TIDINGS

2 KINGS 6:24 – 7:20

Text: 2 Kings 7:9

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.

Introduction:

We find in this story the results of the siege at the hands of Syria. After some horrific things begin to happen the king was so troubled that he begins to blame God's man for the judgment and vows to remove the head of Elisha.

It is amazing how many want to lay blame when trouble comes on God's man.

Illustration:

- Ahab & Elijah

1 Kings 18:17-18

And it came to pass, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said unto him, Art thou he that troubleth Israel? [18] And he answered, I have not troubled Israel; but thou, and thy father's house, in that ye have forsaken the commandments of the Lord, and thou hast followed Baalim.

- King of Israel & Micaiah

1 Kings 22:8

And the king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat, There is yet one man, Micaiah the son of Imlah, by whom we may enquire of the Lord: but I hate him; for he doth not prophesy good concerning me, but evil. And Jehoshaphat said, Let not the king say so.

As we read in the earlier verses of Chapter 7, the king's messenger comes to Elisha, and Elisha tells this messenger that tomorrow all the food that they needed would be sold at a price that everyone could afford.

Now that brings us to the story.

Notice:

1. CIRCUMSTANCE (2 KINGS 6:24-30)

2 Kings 6:24-30

And it came to pass after this, that Ben-hadad king of Syria gathered all his host, and went up, and besieged Samaria. [25] And there was a great famine in Samaria: and, behold, they besieged it, until an ass's head was sold for fourscore pieces of silver, and the fourth part of a cab of dove's dung for five pieces of silver. [26] And as the king of Israel was passing by upon the wall, there cried a woman unto him, saying, Help, my lord, O king. [27] And he said, If the Lord do not help thee, whence shall I help thee? out of the barnfloor, or out of the winepress? [28] And the king said unto her, What aileth thee? And she answered, This woman said unto me, Give thy son, that we may eat him to day, and we will eat my son to morrow. [29] So we boiled my son, and did eat him: and I said unto her on the next day, Give thy son, that we may eat him: and she hath hid her son.

[30] And it came to pass, when the king heard the words of the woman, that he rent his clothes; and he passed by upon the wall, and the people looked, and, behold, he had sackcloth within upon his flesh.

A. Starving

1. Resorted to cannibalism.

B. Sick (4 Lepers)

Not only are these men physically sick but were also a type of those that are spiritually lost.

1. These men were the outcast - they lived outside the walls of the city.
2. These men were living skeletons, because of the lack of food and were dying because of the dreaded disease of leprosy.

2. CHOICE (2 KINGS 7:3)

2 Kings 7:3

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?

Life is full of choices.

Joshua 24:15

And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.

These lepers had a choice to make.

A. They could sit still and die.

B. They could go inside the city and die.

C. They could choose to fall into the hands of the Syrians, and if they spare them they would live, but if they kill them they would be no worse off.

1. Necessity is often the thing that leads one to realize their desperate need.

3. CONSEQUENCES (2 KINGS 7:5, 8)

2 Kings 7:5

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.

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.

We must realize that every choice that we make comes with a consequence.

A. They made this discovery rather than someone else because the famine was sorest on them.

B. They did eat & drink, found silver, gold and raiment.

4. CONFIRMATION (2 KINGS 7:9-10)

2 Kings 7:9-10

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.

A. Soon after their salvation they determined that the right thing to do is to go and testify of their salvation & blessing.

B. Though those in the city were starving to death and had little hope of survival, even after hearing the words that would assure their salvation, some still doubted.

5. CELEBRATION (2 KINGS 7:14-20)

2 Kings 7:14-20

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.

Close:

Lessons from this story

1. There are still those who are hungry & thirsty who are seeking and need salvation.
2. We are just as helpless as the lepers in this story.
3. The only way of salvation is why helpless people fall into the hand of the Savior for their salvation.

Ephes. 2:8-9

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: [9] Not of works, lest any man should boast.

4. God knows where we are and what we need.
5. Those that have experienced God grace (salvation) and God's blessings are obligated to go and tell those who are still starving and seeking.
6. If we fail to go and hold our peace some mischief may come.

Illustration:

Some many examples could be shared of trouble that came as a result of people not being where they need

to be, such as the story of David and Bathsheba. But just three weeks ago I received a phone call from a family in my church, and one of our men who was supposed to be at a youth conference with our teenagers was arrested and is presently in the Roanoke Co. Jail awaiting trial.

7. When we step out by faith - God is always working on the other end.

2 Kings 7:5

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.

2 Kings 7:7

Wherefore they arose and fled in the twilight, and left their tents, and their horses, and their asses, even the camp as it was, and fled for their life.

8. On this special day, and for many here today, the greatest days are ahead.