

## 2 Kings 7

Trust in God's Unseen Plan

- King of Israel banging on Elisha's Door...

### I. Syrians Flee: Mercy in Judgment

1 Then Elisha said, "**Hear the word of the Lord.** Thus says the Lord: 'Tomorrow about this time a seah of fine flour shall be sold for a shekel, and two seahs of barley for a shekel, at the gate of Samaria.' "2 So an officer on whose hand the king leaned answered the man of God and said, "**Look, if the Lord would make windows in heaven, could this thing be?**" And [Elisha] said, "In fact, **you shall see it with your eyes, but you shall not eat of it.**"

- Food will be plentiful tomorrow/ But because of your unbelief in Word of the Lord  
**You will see the Lord's goodness but it will be of no benefit to you**

3 Now there were **four leprous men** at the **entrance of the gate**; and they said to one another, "Why are we sitting here until we die? 4 If we say, 'We will enter the city,' the famine *is* in the city, and we shall die there. And if we sit here, we die also. Now therefore, come, **let us surrender to the army of the Syrians.** If they keep us alive, we shall live; and if they kill us, we shall only die."

- **Four Lepers:**

1. Sitting at the Gate of City at night: Not welcome in city itself
2. Looking out over the siege toward surrounding Syrian army...eating KFC
3. They have absolutely "Nothing to lose"

Surrender and live Surrender and die  
**Worse that can happen? We shall only die**

- Great place to be. End of ourselves. Surrender to God
  1. **Non-believers:** I am not who I was created to be
  2. **Believers:** I've been trusting in myself and it's just not working

5 And [4 Lepers] **rose at twilight** to go to the camp of the Syrians; and when they had come to the outskirts of the Syrian camp, to their surprise **no one was there.** 6 For the Lord had caused the army of the Syrians to **hear the noise of chariots and the noise of horses—the noise of a great army**; so they said to one another, "Look, the king of Israel has hired against us the kings of the Hittites and the kings of the Egyptians to attack us!" 7 Therefore they arose and **fled at twilight**, and left the camp intact—their tents, their horses, and their donkeys—and they fled for their lives.

- **Rose Twilight:** Plan? Wait till dark Win/Lose where going for it!
  1. Wander out Samaria toward brutal Syrians
  2. Find no one there.

**God knew there need ...and moved *before they got there*  
God knows our prayers before we ask**

- **Lepers left at Twilight**
- **Syrians fled at Twilight**

**Matthew 6:8** "... your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.

- **God knew their need**
- **God was already there...**Syrians scared off
  1. **Noise:** Chariots/Great Horses.

**Q. What ever happened Chariots Fire in Ch.6? Here they are!**

2. **Fear:** Rationalize that Israel got word to Hittites/Egyptians for help
  3. **Fled:** At twilight at same time these 4 headed out in faith
  4. **Left everything:** tents, their horses, donkeys—and they fled for their lives.
- King Saul's son Jonathan steps out in faith

**1 Samuel 14:6** [Read] Jonathan said to his young armor-bearer, "Come, let's go over to the outpost of those uncircumcised men. **Perhaps the Lord will act in our behalf. Nothing can hinder the Lord from saving,** whether by many or by few." 7 "Do all that you have in mind," his armor-bearer said. "Go ahead; I am with you heart and soul." **...13** Jonathan climbed up, using his hands and feet, with his armor-bearer right behind him. The Philistines fell before Jonathan, and his armor-bearer followed and killed behind him. 14 In that first attack Jonathan and his armor-bearer killed some twenty men in an area of about half an acre.15 Then panic struck the whole army—those in the camp and field, and those in the outposts and raiding parties—and the ground shook. **It was a panic sent by God.**

- God want to act on our behalf after we step out in faith

**Mark 11:2** [Jesus to disciples] **"Have faith in God.** 23 For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. 24 Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.

- Goes before us knowing our needs: Knew needs of the 4 men

**Deuteronomy 31:8** ...the Lord, **He is the One who goes before you.** He will be with you, He will not leave you nor forsake you; do not fear nor be dismayed."

**Deuteronomy 1:30** The Lord your God, **who goes before you, He will fight for you**

- God goes before us knowing our needs before we ask
- God goes behind us as we move out in faith

**Isaiah 58:8** The glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.

**Exodus 14:19** [God guides/protects] And the Angel of God, who went before the camp of Israel, moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud went from before them and stood behind them. 20 So it came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel. Thus it was a cloud and darkness to *the one*, and it gave light by night to *the other*, so that the one did not come near the other all that night.

- **Guiding:** God goes before us knowing our needs before we ask
- **Protecting:** God goes behind us protecting as we move out in faith

**Isaiah 65:24** "It shall come to pass That (AP)before they call, I will answer; And while they are still speaking, I will hear.

**NOTE:** Look who God is using! 4 Lepers. Look who God is using; you and me

"If you were to take out of the Scriptures all the stories that have to do with poor, afflicted men and women, what a very small book the Bible would become, especially if together with the stories you removed all the psalms of the sorrowful, all the promises for the distressed, and all the passages which belong to the children of grief! This Book, indeed, for the most part is made up of the annals of the poor and despised." [Spurgeon]

8 And when **these lepers** came to the outskirts of the camp, they went into one tent and **ate and drank**, and carried from it **silver and gold** and clothing, and went and hid them; then they came back and **entered another tent**, and carried some from there also, and went and hid it.

- Party Time!
- Eating/Drinking/Hiding treasure for later...

9 Then they said to one another, "**We are not doing right**. This day is a day of **good news**, and we remain silent. If we wait until morning light, some punishment will come upon us. Now therefore, come, let us go and tell the king's household."

- **Mistreated Outcasts:** "We should be sharing this good news?"

**Matthew 5:14** "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Surely, Jesus did not come to save us that we might live unto ourselves. He came to save us from selfishness." [Spurgeon]

- Innately knew what was wrong: To covet and not share
- Innately Knew what was right: To bless even when cursed
- Innately Knew that if they did wrong judgment was imminent

**John 16:8** And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment

- Things all people innately know after HS descended
  1. What is right
  2. What is wrong
  3. Judgment is coming

World can try to shut down God's instilled truth...Judgment is coming none the less

- **We better not keep this blessing to ourselves...**

10 So they went and called to the **gatekeepers of the city**, and told them, saying, "We went to the Syrian camp, and surprisingly no one was there, not a human sound—only horses and donkeys tied, and the tents intact." 11 And the **gatekeepers called out**, and they told it to the king's household inside. 12 So the king arose in the night and said to his servants, "**Let me now tell you what the Syrians have done to us**. They know that we are hungry; therefore they have 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.' "

- **Pagan King of Israel:** Arose in night; i.e. could not sleep figured it out
- **Physical explanation for miracle;** i.e. Syrian Trick; couldn't be divine intervention
  1. **Red Sea Crossing:** Wind blew and they walked across. Dead Soldiers?
  2. **Flood:** Local; yet every people group around the world has flood story
  3. **Resurrection:** Swooning. Except the spear in the side by Centurion
- King of God's people Israel could not believe God had intervened...

13 And one of [the Kings] servants answered and said, "Please, let several men take five of the **remaining horses** which are left in the city. Look, they may either become like all the multitude of Israel that are left in it; or indeed, I say, they may become like all the multitude of Israel left from those who are consumed; so let us send them and see." 14 Therefore they took two chariots with horses; and the king sent them in the direction of the Syrian army, saying, "**Go and see.**"

- **One of the King's Servants:**
  1. What do we have to lose...good place to be
  2. At least go check it out
  3. Follow the way the enemy would go back to Syria

15 And they went after them to the Jordan; and indeed all the road was **full of garments and weapons** which the Syrians had thrown away in their haste. So the messengers **returned and told the king.**

- Chariots of Fire must have been deafening; louder than a Who concert
- Syrians threw off the dead weight as they fled home

1. Clothes
2. Weapons

- Kings men tell the king the Lepers were right
- King tells people and there is a stampede out of city

16 Then the people went out and **plundered the tents of the Syrians**. So a seah of fine flour was sold for a shekel, and two seahs of barley for a shekel, according to the word of the Lord.

- **Who would guess?** Lords word came to pass

17 Now the king had appointed the officer on whose hand he leaned to have **charge of the gate**. But the people trampled him in the gate, and he died, just as the man of God had said, who spoke when the king came down to him.

- Coincidentally gave the unbelieving officer a new position at the gate of city
- Coincidentally stationed along only route out of a city and stampede of starving people

18 So it happened just as the man of God had spoken to the king, saying, "Two seahs of barley for a shekel, and a seah of fine flour for a shekel, shall be sold tomorrow about this time in the gate of Samaria." 19 Then that officer had answered the man of God, and said, "Now look, if the Lord would make windows in heaven, could such a thing be?" And he had said, "In fact, **you shall see it with your eyes, but you shall not eat of it.**" 20 And so it happened to him, for the people trampled him in the gate, and he died.

- **God's word v2 to comes to pass**

...**you shall see** [plenty of food] **with your eyes, but you shall not eat of it.**"

**You will the see the Lord's goodness but it will be of no benefit to you**

- Taste and See the Lord's goodness

**Psalm 34:8** Oh, **taste and see that the Lord is good**; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him! 9 Oh, fear the Lord, you His saints! There is no want to those who fear Him. 10 The young lions lack and suffer hunger; But those who seek the Lord shall not lack any good thing.

**1 Peter 2:1** [Lay...] aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, 2 as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, 3 **if indeed you have tasted** that the Lord is gracious.

- **Every person on earth tastes of the Lords Goodness**

**Matthew 5:45** ... He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

- **Most taste without swallowing:** Thankful, Repentant, Grateful
- **Gift of Salvation must be ingested;** i.e. all in

**John 6:53** Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you."

- Possible to get within inches to Salvation and yet eternity away

**Mark 12:34** [Lawyer who came to test Jesus] When Jesus saw that he had answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God."

- Possible to taste/enjoy Lord and yet fall away...

**Hebrews 6:4** [Read] For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, 5 and have **tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come**, 6 if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame. 7 For the earth which drinks in the rain that often comes upon it, and bears herbs useful for those by whom it is cultivated, receives blessing from God; 8 but if it bears thorns and briers, it is rejected and near to being cursed, whose end is to be burned.

- **Trampled at the Gate...**for unbelief; i.e. taking for granted goodness of God

**Hebrews 10:29** Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has **trampled the Son of God** underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?

- Possible to taste and yet fall away: Seed shallow soil w/ no depth/root [repentance]
- Saving Faith leads to Endurance/Endurance is proof of Saving Faith

**1 John 1:19** They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us.

- **Continuing in the Lord and with His people...**

**Acts 2:42** [Read] And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. 43 Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. 44 Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, 45 and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. 46 So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

**SUMMARY Syrians Flee** Mercy in Judgment: Imagine if God showed no mercy in judgment; Like a cut that never heals or no second chances. Our God is a God of Mercy