

Desperate Times Desperate Measures

2 Kings 7

And those who know your name put their trust in you, for you, O Lord, have not forsaken those who seek you. Psalm 9:10

work WITH ///e

Now it came about after this, that Ben-hadad king of Aram gathered all his army and went up and besieged Samaria.

There was a great famine in Samaria; and behold, they besieged it, until a donkey's head was sold for eighty shekels of silver, and a fourth of a kab of dove's dung for five shekels of silver.

Then he (King Joram) said, "May God do so to me and more also, if the head of Elisha the son of Shaphat remains on him today."

While he was still talking with them, behold, the messenger came down to him and he said, "Behold, this evil is from the LORD; why should I wait for the LORD any longer?"

Blaming God 2 Kings 6

- Ben-Hadad = son of Aramean deity
- Armies of Syria down to conquer Israel (North)
- Famine in the land attack when weak

Blaming God 2 Kings 6

- Desperate Times Desperate Measures
- Donkey's head 80 shekels silver (year)
- Dove's dung 5 shekels silver (month)
- Cannibalism mothers share deceased sons?
- King swears out warrant Elisha answers!

Fear is only a resident if you let it in — it will come knocking — send faith to answer the door!

1 Then Elisha said, "Listen to the word of the LORD; thus says the LORD, 'Tomorrow about this time a measure of fine flour will be sold for a shekel, and two measures of barley for a shekel, in the gate of Samaria."

work WITH ///e

2 The royal officer on whose hand the king was leaning answered the man of God and said, "Behold, if the LORD should make windows in heaven, could this thing be?" Then he said, "Behold, you will see it with your own eyes, but you will not eat of it."

Trusting God 7:1,2

- Elisha goes to the palace gives prophecy
- · Absurdly cheap!
- Royal officer (advisor) scoffs
- Elisha this will happen but you won't eat
- God will NOT be wrong!

"As for His failing you, never dream of it — hate the thought of it. The God who has been sufficient until now should be trusted to the end." C.H. Spurgeon walk WITH ///e 7:3 Now there were four leprous men at the entrance of the gate; and they said to one another, "Why do we sit here until we die?

4 If we say, 'We will enter the city,' then the famine is in the city and we will die there; and if we sit here, we die also. Now therefore come, and let us go over to the camp of the Arameans. If they spare us, we will live; and if they kill us, we will but die."

5 They arose at twilight to go to the camp of the Arameans; when they came to the outskirts of the camp of the Arameans, behold, there was no one there.

6 For the Lord had caused the army of the Arameans to hear a sound of chariots and a sound of horses, even the sound of a great army, so that they said to one another, "Behold, the king of Israel has hired against us the kings of the Hittites and the kings of the Egyptians, to come upon us." walk WITH /// e 7 Therefore they arose and fled in the twilight, and left their tents and their horses and their donkeys, even the camp just as it was, and fled for their life.

8 When these lepers came to the outskirts of the camp, they entered one tent and ate and drank, and carried from there silver and gold and clothes, and went and hid them; and they returned and entered another tent and carried from there also, and went and hid them.

work WITH ///e

Testing God 7:3-8

- Lepers desperate times desperate measures!
- If we go back if we stay if we go on DIE
- At sundown (maybe they won't see!)
- •LORD emptied camp mercenaries?
- Kids in a candy store!



Pascal's Wager

God exists

God does not exist

You do believe in God

Eternal happiness

(Heaven)

Nothing happens

You don't believe in God

Eternal damnation (HeII)

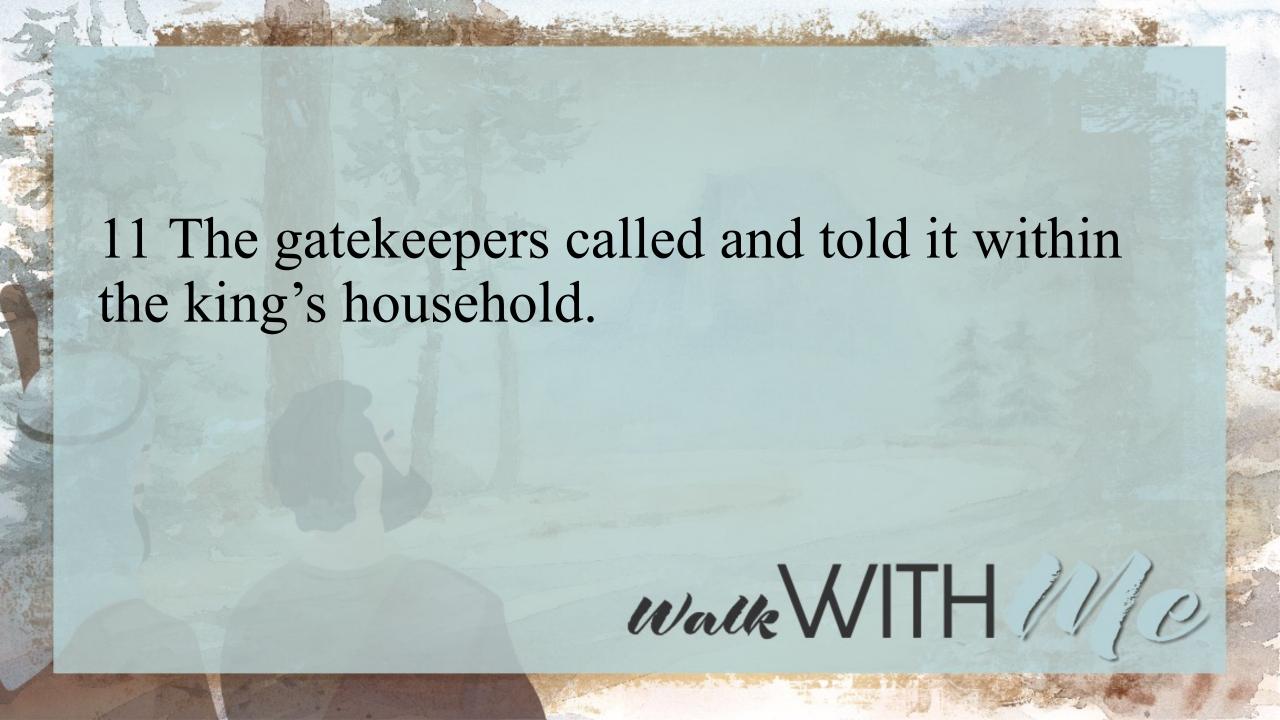
Nothing happens

"Let your cares drive you to God. I shall not mind if you have many of them if each one leads you to prayer. If every fret makes you lean more on the Beloved, it will be a benefit." C.H. Spurgeon walk WITH ///e

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

10 So they came and called to the gatekeepers of the city, and they told them, saying, "We came to the camp of the Arameans, and behold, there was no one there, nor the voice of man, only the horses tied and the donkeys tied, and the tents just as they were."

work WITH /// e



12 Then the king arose in the night and said to his servants, "I will now tell you what the Arameans have done to us. They know that we are hungry; therefore they have gone from the camp to hide themselves in the field, saying, 'When they come out of the city, we will capture them alive and get into the city."

13 One of his servants said, "Please, let some men take five of the horses which remain, which are left in the city. Behold, they will be in any case like all the multitude of Israel who are left in it; behold, they will be in any case like all the multitude of Israel who have already perished, so let us send and see."

work WITH /// e

14 They took therefore two chariots with horses, and the king sent after the army of the Arameans, saying, "Go and see."

work WITH ///e

Sharing God 7:9-14

- Attack of conscience we should do better
- Told the gatekeeper not let in!
- Story made it to the King (Joram)
- Go and see nothing to lose!

While we are often surprised – God never is!

15 They went after them to the Jordan, and behold, all the way was full of clothes and equipment which the Arameans had thrown away in their haste. Then the messengers returned and told the king.

16 So the people went out and plundered the camp of the Arameans. Then 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 Now the king appointed the royal officer on whose hand he leaned to have charge of the gate; but the people trampled on him at the gate, and he died just as the man of God had said, who spoke when the king came down to him.

18 It happened just 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, will be sold tomorrow about this time at the gate of Samaria."

work WITH ///e

19 Then the royal officer answered the man of God and said, "Now behold, if the LORD should make windows in heaven, could such a thing be?" And he said, "Behold, you will see it with your own eyes, but you will not eat of it."

work WITH ///e

20 And so it happened to him, for the people trampled on him at the gate and he died.

Believing God 7:15-20

- It was like they said
- Prices dropped to unheard of prices!
- Man at the gate tried to limit flow NO!
- Crowd trampled him no lunch for him

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Jer. 29:11

Don't forget — a pebble took down Goliath!

'80% of salespeople NEVER ask for the sale'

Believers don't invite friends:

I already know them
They already know me

I know they are not religious

ASK THEM AGAIN!

We are not selling anything!
We are trying to give it away!

JESUS PAID IT ALL!

"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Rom 6:23

