

Feasting, then Famine! Lepers loathed, then loved. Strange Times! 2 Kings 6:23 – 7:10, 8:1

Surrounded and Surrendered! (Last week we saw another intended besiegement, But God worked a miracle, opening Elisha's servants eyes and closing the Syrian army's eyes!)
Feasting, then Famine!
Lepers loathed, then loved.
Strange Times!
2Ki.6:23-7:1-10, 8:1

Fed up waiting for God!

A Message in 2 parts. Like 2 smaller sermons back to back. 2Ki.6 and 2Ki.7 The grateful; Lepers

Our text this Sunday is dramatic and disastrous. Are you surprised by what happened?

Is the withdrawal of blessings/privilege the same as punishment?
Have you ever truly starved? Should we ever employ those terms so glibly?
How is your spiritual appetite? Are you a spiritual glutton?
Are you aware of how sinful you are to the core, the offenses you are capable of?
Is your faith deep enough to endure whatever trial comes? Or will you bail on God

when its hard?

When 'discipline' comes do you seek God or blame Him and others?

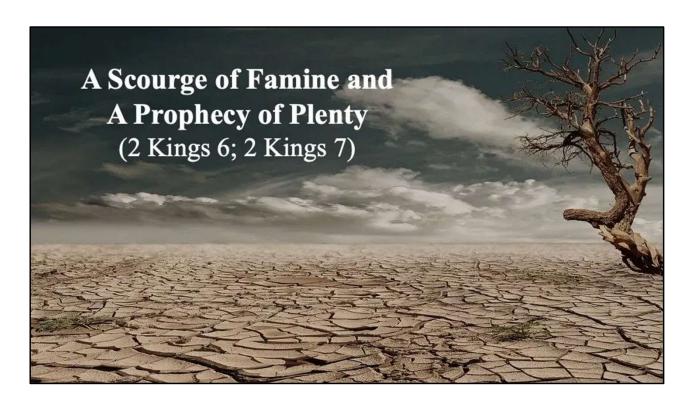
Do you pray and give thanks over each meal? If not, why?

2Ki.7 teaches us again about Lepers, what are the lessons from these 4 'Unclean' Outcasts?

Do you believe the bible when it teaches us about a glorious Heaven and a dreadful Hell?

With hell so real and deserving and people so lost and empty, why arent you/we more zealous to share the Hope of the gospel?

What does it say about us if we dont speak the Love of Christ to those in need?



Fed up, waiting for God!

Feast or Famine – both have spiritual purposes!

[Psa 63:1 ESV] 1 A Psalm of David, when he was in the wilderness of Judah. O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

Another Famine – 2 Kings 6:23-33

- Praying hard prayers! James 5:16-20
- 2 Kings 6:23-25 Feast and / or Famine, no raids / Besieged
- And there was a great famine in Samaria
- The depths of unspeakable sin

2Ki.6 is an astonishing chapter! We see one of the worst moments in human history, which itself evidences so many truths! What are they?

Are you willing to pray: Lord, whatever it takes bring my loved ones to brokenness/repentance and Faith!

Many Famines, Can you hear me now??

1Ki 17:1, Elijah and Ahab, 31/2 yrs. Lk.4:25, Ja.5 1Ki 18:2,

2Ki 4:38 Elisha, sons of Prophets, poison stew

2Ki 6:25 Ben-hadad's Siege of Samaria

2Ki 8:1, Elisha **7 yr famine** Remember **Elisha wanted a double portion? Is ch.8** a different Famine or rehearsing ch.6?

<u>Luk 4:25 Hag 1:7</u>-11, <u>2Sa 21:1</u>. <u>2Ki 6:25</u>-33: <u>Lev 26:29</u>, <u>Deu 28:53</u>—57, <u>Lam 4:10</u>, <u>Eze 5:10</u>, <u>Mat 24:21</u> <u>2Ch 33:10</u>-13, 16-19,

[Jas 5:16-20 Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. **The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. 17 Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed**

fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. 18 Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit. 19 My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, 20 let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

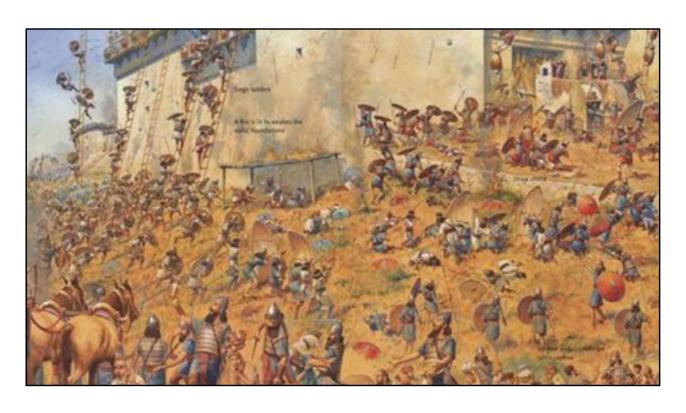
God doesn't owe us food! It's a gift, which is why we always should give thanks!

(Lev. 26:29; Deut. 28:53, 57). Joram Constable, T. L. (1985). 2 Kings. In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures (Vol. 1, p. 550). Victor Books.

Elisha presciently prewarned, saved from the King. So, The Spiritual resisted the Gov't, the King!??

Another Famine – 2 Kings 6:23-33

- Hopelessly inconsolable
- Blaming God instead of ourselves
- Elisha presciently prewarned, saved from the King



Elisha was besieged – NP Samaria was besieged and it couldn't have gotten any uglier!

Applications!

- How is your Appetite? "spiritual famine"
 - Matthew 4:4 But he answered, "It is written, "'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."
 - Bread and water in the wilderness, Milk and Honey?!
 - Daily Dependency and gratitude?

Ever get Hangry?

Ever really starved? Are we being flippant, cold and calloused when we say were starving?

Do you give thanks over every meal? Self inflicted famine? Spiritual Anorexia

[2Ki 6:27 ESV] 27 And he said, "If **the LORD** will not help you, how shall I help you? From **the threshing floor**, **or from the winepress?**"

Pica?

[Psa 84:2 ESV] 2 My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the LORD; my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God.

[Pro 13:25 ESV] 25 The righteous has enough to satisfy his appetite, but the belly of the wicked suffers want.

[Pro 16:26 ESV] 26 A worker's appetite works for him; his mouth urges him on.

[Pro 23:2 ESV] 2 and put a knife to your throat if you are given to appetite.

[Ecc 6:7, 9 ESV] 7 All the toil of man is for his mouth, yet his appetite is not satisfied. ... 9 Better is the sight of the eyes than the wandering of the appetite: this

also is vanity and a striving after wind.

[Deu 28:48 ESV] 48 therefore you shall serve your enemies whom the LORD will send against you, in hunger and thirst, in nakedness, and lacking everything. And he will put a yoke of iron on your neck until he has destroyed you.

[Mat 5:6 ESV] 6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

[Jhn 6:35 ESV] 35 Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.

[1Co 4:11 ESV] 11 To the present hour we hunger and thirst, we are poorly dressed and buffeted and homeless,

[2Co 11:27 ESV] 27 in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure.

[Rev 7:16 ESV] 16 They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat.

[Deu 8:3 ESV] 3 And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.

[Mat 4:4 ESV] 4 But he answered, "It is written, "'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.""

[Luk 4:4 ESV] 4 And Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone."

[Exo 16:8 ESV] 8 And Moses said, "When the LORD gives you in the evening meat to eat and in the morning bread to the full, because the LORD has heard your grumbling that you grumble against him--what are we? Your grumbling is not against us but against the LORD."

[1Ki 17:12 ESV] 12 And she said, "As the LORD your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. And now I am gathering a couple of sticks that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it and die."

[Amo 8:11 ESV] 11 "Behold, the days are coming," declares the Lord GOD, "when I will send a famine on the land-- not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD.

Applications!

- How is your Appetite? "spiritual famine"
 - Is it punishment or withdrawn blessing?
 - Amos 8:11 "Behold, the days are coming," declares the Lord GOD, "when I will send a famine on the land – not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD."



Do you pray over your meals? Scripture teaches it.
When we don't pray we prove we feel entitled and show we are ungrateful!
Why do you find it so hard to say Thank you?!
Jesus prayed over His meals!

[Deu 6:10-12 ESV] 10 "And when the LORD your God brings you into the land that he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give you--with great and good cities that you did not build, 11 and houses full of all good things that you did not fill, and cisterns that you did not dig, and vineyards and olive trees that you did not plant--and when you eat and are full, 12 then take care lest you forget the LORD, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

[1Ti 4:4-5] For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, 5 for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer.

[Dan 6:10 ESV] 10 When Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he went to his house where he had windows in his upper chamber open toward Jerusalem. He got down on his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as he had done previously.

[Mat 15:36 ESV] 36 he took the seven loaves and the fish, and <u>having given thanks</u> <u>he broke them and gave them to the disciples</u>, and the disciples gave them to the crowds.

[Luk 22:19 ESV] 19 And <u>he took bread, and when he had given thanks,</u> he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

[Mat 26:27 ESV] 27 And <u>he took a cup, and when he had given thanks</u> he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you,

The depths of unspeakable sin

- Humans are Totally depraved! You are a Far worse sinner than you can even imagine!
 - Leviticus 26:29 You shall eat the flesh of your sons, and you shall eat the flesh of your daughters.
 - Lamentations 4:10 The hands of compassionate women have boiled their own children; they became their food during the destruction of the daughter of my people.

Imagine a cataclysmic event, there is No law, the Gov't has collapsed. What would happen? How would you behave? What if someone stole your food during that time?

You/we are deceived by the evil we are capable of!!

We haven't a clue to the depths of our depravity! Different from Utter Depravity Vows/integrity, The Golden rule and Natural affection Rom.1:31c (a mothers love becomes unnatural) are all abandoned and turned inside out! We become inhuman

Only God can fill the hunger of your soul, We NEED more of Him every day! A compelling argument for biblical authority. Gods word is such he lays bare the worst of his own people! Not so with human authors

[1Ki 3:26 ESV] 26 Then the woman whose son was alive said to the king, because her heart yearned for her son, "Oh, my lord, give her the living child, and by no means put him to death." But the other said, "He shall be neither mine nor yours; divide him."

[Isa 49:15 ESV] 15 "Can a woman forget her nursing child, that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget

you."

The Most Tender, and refined! Who would not venture the sole of her foot on the ground. So delicate and tender (sensitive)

[Lev 26:27-29 ESV] 27 "But if in spite of this you will not listen to me, but walk contrary to me, 28 then I will walk contrary to you in fury, and I myself will discipline you sevenfold for your sins. 29 **You shall eat the flesh of your sons, and you shall eat the flesh of your daughters.**

[Deu 28:53-57 ESV] 53 And you shall eat the fruit of your womb, the flesh of your sons and daughters, whom the LORD your God has given you, in the siege and in the distress with which your enemies shall distress you. 54 The man who is the most tender and refined among you will begrudge food to his brother, to the wife he embraces, and to the last of the children whom he has left, 55 so that he will not give to any of them any of the flesh of his children whom he is eating, because he has nothing else left, in the siege and in the distress with which your enemy shall distress you in all your towns. 56 The most tender and refined woman among you, who would not venture to set the sole of her foot on the ground because she is so delicate and tender, will begrudge to the husband she embraces, to her son and to her daughter, 57 her afterbirth that comes out from between her feet and her children whom she bears, because lacking everything she will eat them secretly, in the siege and in the distress with which your enemy shall distress you in your towns.

[2Ki 6:28-29 ESV] 28 And the king asked her, "What is your trouble?" She answered, "This woman said to me, 'Give your son, that we may eat him today, and we will eat my son tomorrow.' 29 So we boiled my son and ate him. And on the next day I said to her, 'Give your son, that we may eat him.' But she has hidden her son."

[Isa 9:19-20 ESV] 19 Through the wrath of the LORD of hosts the land is scorched, and the people are like fuel for the fire; no one spares another. 20 They slice meat on the right, but are still hungry, and they devour on the left, but are not satisfied; each devours the flesh of his own arm,

[Isa 49:26 ESV] 26 I will make your oppressors eat their own flesh, and they shall be drunk with their own blood as with wine. Then all flesh shall know that I am the LORD your Savior, and your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob."

[Jer 19:9 ESV] 9 And I will make them eat the flesh of their sons and their daughters, and everyone shall eat the flesh of his neighbor in the siege and in the distress, with which their enemies and those who seek their life afflict them.' [Lam 2:20 Look, O LORD, and see! With whom have you dealt thus? Should women eat the fruit of their womb, the children of their tender care? Should priest and prophet be killed in the sanctuary of the Lord?

[Lam 4:10 ESV] 10 The hands of compassionate women have boiled their own children; they became their food during the destruction of the daughter of my people.

[Mic 3:2-3 ESV] 2 you who hate the good and love the evil, who tear the skin from off

my people and their flesh from off their bones, 3 who eat the flesh of my people, and flay their skin from off them, and break their bones in pieces and chop them up like meat in a pot, like flesh in a cauldron.

[Zec 11:9 ESV] 9 So I said, "I will not be your shepherd. What is to die, let it die. What is to be destroyed, let it be destroyed. And let those who are left devour the flesh of one another."

[Eze 5:10 ESV] 10 Therefore fathers shall eat their sons in your midst, and sons shall eat their fathers. And I will execute judgments on you, and any of you who survive I will scatter to all the winds.

[Mat 24:21 ESV] 21 For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be.

[Luk 23:29 ESV] 29 For behold, the days are coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren and the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!'

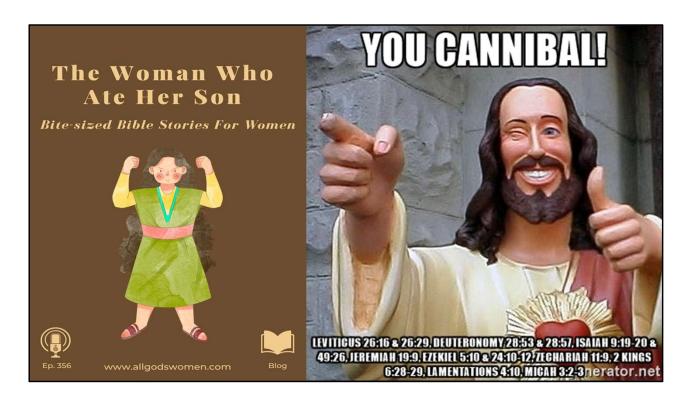
The depths of unspeakable sin

- Humans are Totally depraved! You are a Far worse sinner than you can even imagine!
 - Ezekiel 5:10 Therefore, fathers shall eat their sons in your midst, and sons shall eat their fathers ...



I can't even allow my mind to go there! That day must've been so disgusting and abhorrent

How is the non evangelistic "believer" better than her?!!! You are unprincipled, unmerciful and thinking ONLY of yourself! Using others to do it.



Blaming God instead of ourselves.

The World loves and Champions this text to disparage our God and His Word! They don't even see the point

The Woman who ate her son. Bite sized bible stories for women.

You Cannibal!

True faith tested! Do you lose hope?

- "If the LORD will not help you, how shall I help you? 27
- "May God do so to me and more also, if the head of Elisha the son of Shaphat remains on his shoulders today." 31, 1 Kings 18:17 "you troubler of Israel"

2Ki 6:33 And while he was still speaking with them, the messenger came down to him and said, "This trouble is from the LORD! Why should I wait for the LORD any longer?"

(If they had waited JUST 1 more day!! God was sending food!)

Hopelessly inconsolable. Hopelessness betrays a heart that has stopped trusting God!

PhI 4:11-13 Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. 12 I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. 13 I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

Foolish Vows!/Swears!

Why do men turn hard and blame God when they should see His power, their sin and His offer for reconciliation?

Here the King Mentions the LORD, He isn't referencing Baal. All of a sudden he's got the right God, when he wants to blame! Like those who use our Lords name in vain!

When tested and tried, how soon do you exhibit faith or foolishness?!!

[2Ki 5:7 ESV] 7 And when the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to kill and to make alive, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? Only consider, and see how he is seeking a quarrel with me." [Mat 26:65 ESV] 65 Then the high priest tore his robes and said, "He has uttered blasphemy. What further witnesses do we need? You have now heard his blasphemy. [Act 14:14 ESV] 14 But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of it, they tore their garments and rushed out into the crowd, crying out,

[1Sa 14:44 ESV] 44 And Saul said, "God do so to me and more also; you shall surely die, Jonathan."

[1Sa 25:22 ESV] 22 God do so to the enemies of David and more also, if by morning I leave so much as one male of all who belong to him."

[1Ki 18:17 ESV] 17 When Ahab saw Elijah, Ahab said to him, "Is it you, you troubler of Israel?"

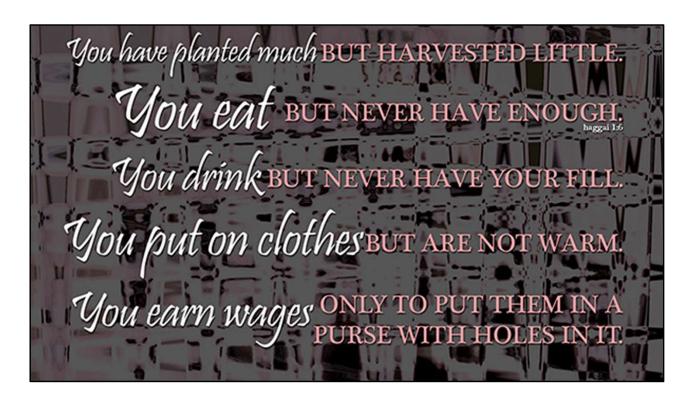
[1Ki 19:2 ESV] 2 Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So may the gods do to me and more also, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by this time tomorrow."

[Jer 38:4 ESV] 4 Then the officials said to the king, "Let this man be put to death, for he is weakening the hands of the soldiers who are left in this city, and the hands of all the people, by speaking such words to them. For this man is not seeking the welfare of this people, but their harm."

[Act 23:12-13 ESV] 12 When it was day, the Jews made a plot and bound themselves by an oath neither to eat nor drink till they had killed Paul. 13 There were more than forty who made this conspiracy.

True faith tested! Do you lose hope?

- Joel 2:13 and <u>rend your hearts and not your</u> garments. Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster.
- Why is Jesus so disrespected / cursed?!



Hag 1:7-11

[Hag 1:7-11 ESV] 7 "Thus says the LORD of hosts: Consider your ways. 8 Go up to the hills and bring wood and build the house, that I may take pleasure in it and that I may be glorified, says the LORD. 9 You looked for much, and behold, it came to little. And when you brought it home, I blew it away. Why? declares the LORD of hosts. Because of my house that lies in ruins, while each of you busies himself with his own house. 10 Therefore the heavens above you have withheld the dew, and the earth has withheld its produce. 11 And I have called for a drought on the land and the hills, on the grain, the new wine, the oil, on what the ground brings forth, on man and beast, and on all their labors."

[Hag 2:17 ESV] 17 I struck you and all the products of your toil with blight and with mildew and with hail, **yet you did not turn to me, declares the LORD.**

[Lev 26:19 ESV] 19 and I will break the pride of your power, and I will make your heavens like iron and your earth like bronze.

[Deu 28:23-24 ESV] 23 And the heavens over your head shall be bronze, and the earth under you shall be iron. 24 The LORD will make the rain of your land powder. From heaven dust shall come down on you until you are destroyed.

[1Ki 8:35 ESV] 35 "When heaven is shut up and there is no rain because they have

sinned against you, if they pray toward this place and acknowledge your name and turn from their sin, when you afflict them,

[1Ki 17:1 ESV] 1 Now Elijah the Tishbite, of Tishbe in Gilead, said to Ahab, "As the LORD, the God of Israel, lives, before whom I stand, there shall be neither dew nor rain these years, except by my word."

[Jer 14:1 ESV] 1 The word of the LORD that came to Jeremiah concerning the drought:

[Hos 2:9 ESV] 9 Therefore I will take back my grain in its time, and my wine in its season, and I will take away my wool and my flax, which were to cover her nakedness.

"Hear the word of the LORD: thus says the LORD, Tomorrow about this time ..."

- The Enemy is defeated by night sounds! & Flee!
- In fear & haste they leave their valuables, spoils!
- Overnight, God gives dramatic deliverance! Delay?
- Feasting famine fleeing Feasting! Famine again?

[2Ki 7:6-7 ESV] 6 For the Lord had made the army of the Syrians <u>hear the</u> sound of chariots and of horses, 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 Egypt to come against us." 7 So they fled away in the twilight and abandoned their tents, their horses, and their donkeys, leaving the camp as it was, and fled for their lives.

Elisha predicted that they would be able to buy six times as much food for one-fifth the cost.

What weapons did God use to defeat the entrenched Syrian army? A noise and four lepers!

Wiersbe, W. W. (1993). *Wiersbe's Expository Outlines on the Old Testament* (2 Ki 6:24–7:20). Victor Books.

The famine in verse 25 seems to be restricted to the city of Samaria, and therefore does not have to coincide with a calamity of national proportions like the one in 2 Kings 8:1. It may have resulted from a double cause, a poor harvest in the fields around Samaria and a military siege that stopped the flow of food into the city. How ever, since the king held Elisha responsible for the famine (v. 31), and **since**

prophets were known to withhold rain, and since 7:2 refers to "windows in heaven," some believe the famine must have resulted from a severe drought. Dilday, R., & Ogilvie, L. J. (1987). *1, 2 Kings* (Vol. 9, p. 302). Thomas Nelson Inc.

Cannibalism is not unknown in the Old Testament (cf. **Deut. 28:56**; **Ezek. 5:10**; **Lam. 2:20**; **4:10**), but the horror of the situation in Samaria reaches its deepest level here. Dilday, R., & Ogilvie, L. J. (1987). *1, 2 Kings* (Vol. 9, p. 303). Thomas Nelson Inc.

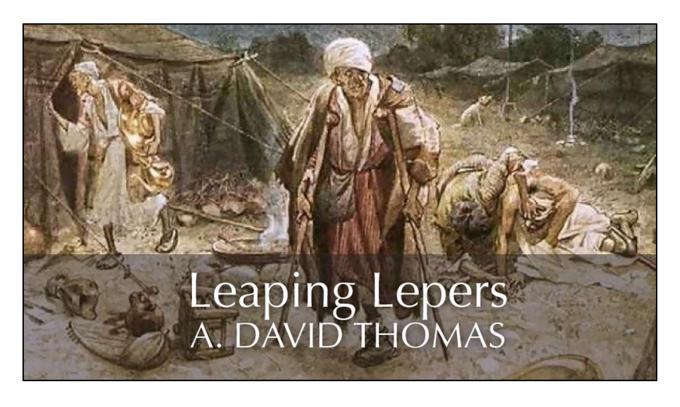
Feasting - famine - fleeing - Feasting! Famine again 8:1

Other Dramatic OVERNIGHT Deliverances?

Joseph, from prison to Palace. From Minimal control to Unrivaled! Daniel in Lions Den

"Hear the word of the LORD: thus says the LORD, Tomorrow about this time ..."

- The miracle is so shocking a man swears God can't
- His faithlessness paved the way for others
- 4 starving Lepers saved the day!



Leaping Lepers1

Let us go and tell

- The Lepers were unclean and unprotected, outside!
- We have 4 choices Logic here, not faith
- 4 Lepers III! Outcast beggars, Starving, Any worse?
- "We are not doing right. This day is a day of good news. If we are silent and wait until the morning light, punishment will overtake us. Now therefore come; let us go and tell" 2 Kings 7:9, Matthew 28:5-

The Lepers were uncleaned and unprotected, outside! - They weren't even worthy of death by battle! Foreign Armies wouldn't kill them, they'd avoid them! For Fear of contamination!

[2Ki 7:3-5 ESV] 3 Now there were four men who were lepers at the entrance to the gate. And they said to one another, "Why are we sitting here until we die? 4 If we say, 'Let us enter the city,' the famine is in the city, and we shall die there. And if we sit here, we die also. So now come, let us go over to the camp of the Syrians. If they spare our lives we shall live, and if they kill us we shall but die." 5 So they arose at twilight to go to the camp of the Syrians. But when they came to the edge of the camp of the Syrians, behold, there was no one there. Starve with the city, Sit (do nothing, hope something will happen), Spared or face the sword (Death by Cop, Syrian)

[2Ki 7:8-10 ESV] 8 And when these lepers came to the edge of the camp, they went into a tent and ate and drank, and they carried off silver and gold and clothing and went and hid them. Then they came back and entered another tent and carried off things from it and went and hid them. 9 Then they said to one another, "We are not doing right. This day is a day of good news. If we are silent and wait until the morning light, punishment will overtake us. Now therefore come; let us go and tell

the king's household." 10 <u>So they came and called to the gatekeepers of the city</u> <u>and told them</u>, "We came to the camp of the Syrians, and behold, there was no one to be seen or heard there, nothing but the horses tied and the donkeys tied and the tents as they were." (They Yelled the good news!)

Mat 28:5-8 But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. 6 He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. **Come**, **see** the place where he lay. 7 Then **go quickly and tell** his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you." 8 So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples.

How do you think the people of the city responded to the Lepers? See them differently? Treat them better?

Let us go and tell

• Gospel = good news! It is sin, not to go and tell!



At 1st the Lepers thought only of themselves. But can you blame them? Have they received much kindness or gifts from the Well citizens of Samaria?

This is the real test of the golden rule! Its about following the divine imprint of moral truth and living by it regardless if others do

The Golden Rule, Royal law?

- Elisha spared the Aramean army, fed them, but they besieged Israel and starved the??!
- 2 woman agreed to eat their kids, but then 1 didn't
 - Reminiscent & counter to Solomon dividing the baby!
- Israeli Lepers are moved to share with those who made the outcasts and outsiders (outside walls is war)

Solomon and Joran were very different men. God gives us the kings we deserve!

[Jas 2:8 ESV] 8 If you really fulfill **the royal law** according to the Scripture, **"You shall love your neighbor as yourself**," you are doing well.

The Golden Rule, Royal law?

• James 4:17 – So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin. (2:8)



How do you think the people of the city responded to the Lepers? See them differently? Treat them better?

But what IF my friends don't want to hear?

- There is no kindness more cruel than the kindness which consigns / leaves another person to their sin.
- You do not love your friends by withholding Jesus from them! You only use Jesus and them to exalt self!
- Evangelism in its purest form is just an overflow of deeply grateful and adoring worship!
- We freely talk of what we delight in!

There is no kindness more cruel than the kindness which consigns another person to their sin. (Dietrich Bonhoeffer)

"If sinners will be damned, at least let them leap to Hell over our bodies. And if they will perish, let them perish with our arms about their knees, imploring them to stay. If Hell must be filled, at least let it be filled in the teeth of our exertions, and let not one go there unwarned and unprayed for."

Peter denied Jesus three times. How about you? We deny Him by our silence. "Today Christians spend more money on dog food than missions." Leonard Ravenhill

"The Great Commission is not an option to be considered; it is a command to be obeyed." Hudson Taylor

"Could a mariner sit idle if he heard the drowning cry? Could a doctor sit in comfort and just let his patients die? Could a fireman sit idle, let men burn and give no hand? Can you sit at ease in Zion with the world around you damned?" Leonard Ravenhill

"Have you no wish for others to be saved? Then you are not saved yourself, be sure of that." Charles Spurgeon

"Every saved person this side of heaven owes the gospel to every lost person this side of hell." -David Platt

You do not love your friends by withholding Jesus from them! You only love yourself!



Evangelism is hard! Watching the people you love go to hell is harder!

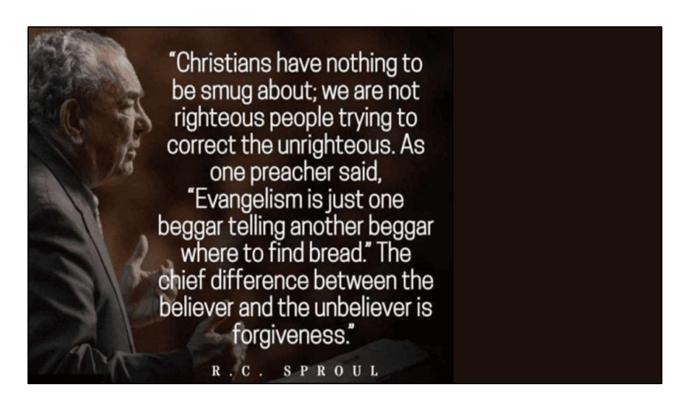
Consider how precious a soul must be, when both God and the devil are after it!! And At all costs!

Lord, Open our Eyes to see ...

- The danger of neglecting your daily blessings!
- How deeply depraved we truly are! Save us!
- The real food that truly satisfies! A spiritual appetite!
- Both Feasts and Famines are from God! Which 1?
- Even ignored, unwanted, begging lepers matter!

Lord, Open our Eyes to see ...

- With grateful Hearts, Humble perspectives and Hurry!
- Our physical discomforts are worth it, to be saved!

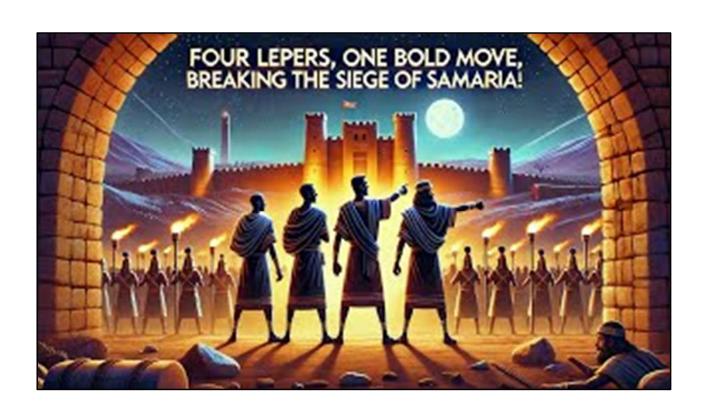


Christians have NOTHING to be Smug about; we are not righteous people (but begging Lepers!) trying to correct the unrighteous. As one preacher said, 'Evangelism is just 1 beggar telling another beggar where to find bread." The chief difference between the believer and the unbeliever is Forgiveness"

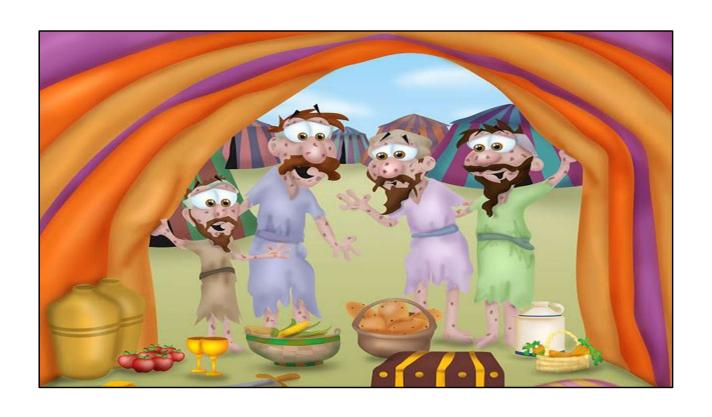
How could this illustration have come from anywhere else than 2 Kings 6-7

Lets tell with <u>Humility</u> (lepers), <u>Heart</u> and <u>Hurriedness!</u>

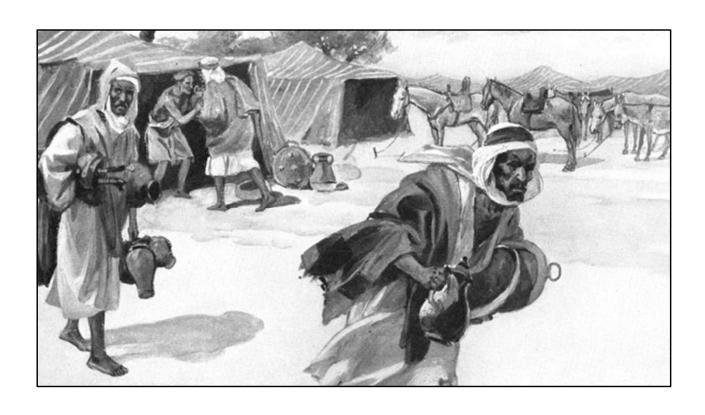












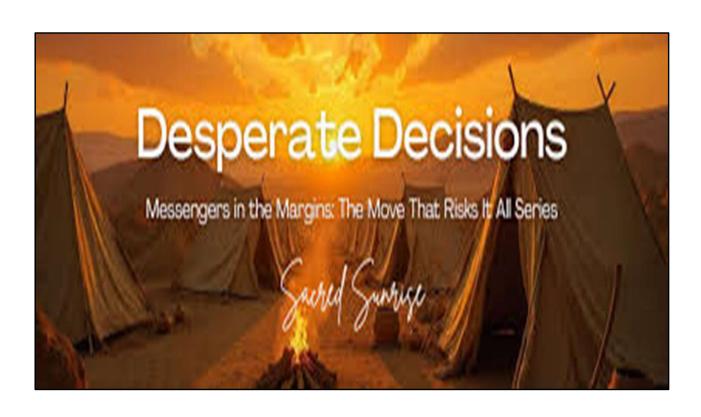


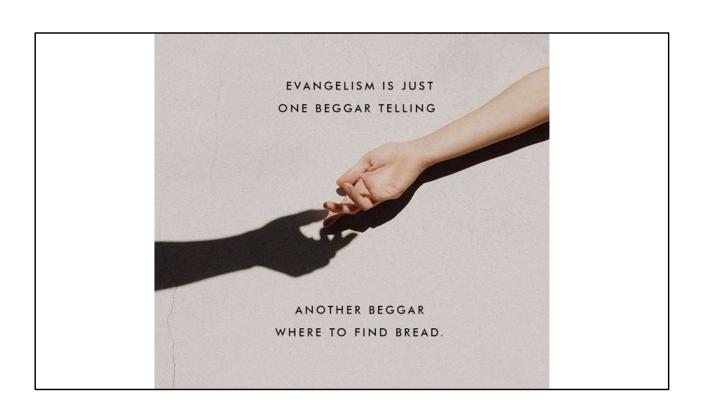


The nature of Christ's salvation is woefully misrepresented by the present-day evangelist. He announces a Saviour from Hell rather than a Saviour from sin. And that is why so many are fatally deceived, for there are multitudes who wish to escape the Lake of fire who have no desire to be delivered from their carnality and worldliness.

— Arthur W. Pink —

AZ QUOTES



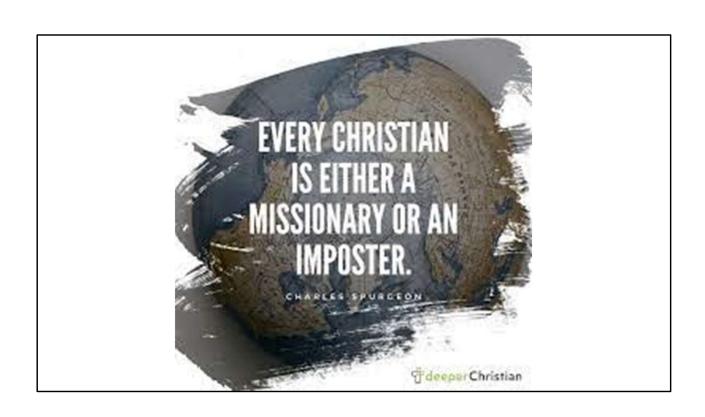




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AZ QUOTES



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.

2 Kings 6:25



