

True Strength in Turbulent Times: “A Diet of Mud Pies”

Growth Group Discussion

2 Kings 6:24-7:20

Opening Questions (get everyone involved in discussion):

- What is your snack of choice to bring with you when you are going to be away from home and meals for an extended time (examples: going hiking, taking a long road trip, etc.)?
- Begin with prayer. Take at least 30 seconds to be silent, clearing your minds of distractions and preparing to hear from God’s word.

1. **Read 2 Kings 6:24-29, then discuss the following.**

- Describe, in your own words, what is happening in Samaria (the capital city of Northern Israel at the time).
- In order to understand God’s perspective on this state of affairs, it is necessary to remember Deuteronomy 28: 15 and 52. Read those verses, and discuss what is happening in Israel in light of God’s covenant with his people.
- Pastor Josh explained that because God’s people have insisted on idolatry, he has sent the curses that he promised—which include a city under siege, famine, and a people who are so morally numb that they even stoop to cannibalism. One principle that we see in this picture is that **when we look to the wrong source of spiritual nourishment, we will become malnourished.**
 - Can you think of ways you have seen this play out in your own journey, which you would be willing to share about?
 - Have you ever found yourself doing things you never thought you’d do, because of being in a place of desperation? What eventually brought you out of that place?
 - What are some of the things you’ve looked to since March 2020 to help you cope with the challenges of life? Are these things sustainable and healthy? Is there anything potentially harmful about them?
 - What are some examples of coping mechanisms that may not be harmful in the short term, but over time, could lead to “spiritual malnourishment?”
- Meanwhile, God offers us a better form of nourishment. Read Psalm 36:7-8, 63:5.
 - How do we access and experience this “feast?”

2. **READ 2 Kings 6:30-7:2 and discuss the following.**

- Why does the king want Elisha dead at this point in time?
- What is the essence of Elisha’s prediction, relating to God’s intervention?
- What do you think of the officer’s reaction (7:2) and Elisha’s response to him?
 - Do you have a similar, doubting reaction to any of God’s promises, or in the face of any of your current challenges?

3. **READ 2 Kings 7:3-16 and discuss.**

- Who are the heroes in this story? What motivated them to take action?
- Is there anything surprising about how God intervenes on behalf of his people here?
- Pastor Josh summarized the main idea of this story by saying, **“While we insist on starving, God offers us a feast.”**
 - In what ways do we “insist on starving?” Do you agree that we often do so? Why or why not?
 - In what way did God ultimately make his “feast” available to us? Do you see any foreshadowing of Jesus and his work on our behalf in this story?

4. **READ 2 Kings 7:17-20 and discuss.**

- The author rehearses information here which seems redundant. Why do you think he is doing so? Do you see an attempt at persuasion here?
- Are you currently experiencing any stumbling blocks to belief? What needs to happen for you to move forward in faith?

PRAYER:

- Take time to share about and pray for any other needs that exist in your group.
- Pray for what has been shared with regard to coping mechanisms and stumbling blocks. Seek to feast on the Lord’s presence in prayer.