



***THE LEPERS' LEGACY***

**II KINGS 7:3-11**

**Woodland Park Church of Christ**  
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► 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?”** <sup>4</sup> 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.”** <sup>5</sup> And they 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. <sup>6</sup> **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!” <sup>7</sup> 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.

➤ .<sup>8</sup> 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*.<sup>9</sup> **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.”<sup>10</sup> 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.” **II Kings 7:3-10** (emphasis added)

# Initial Notes

- Previous sermon from II Kings 7 dealt with *Expectation-Driven Faith*.
- Syria, led by Ben-Hadad, besieged Samaria and cut off all supplies and resources. **II Kings 6:24**
- Sore famine in Samaria (**II Kings 6:25-29**)
  - Donkey's head sold for 80 shekels of silver
  - One fourth of a kab of dove droppings went for five shekels of silver
  - People resorted to cannibalism



But there was a message from God

- Just because things look bleak right now and all hope appears gone doesn't mean that catastrophe is assured.

*Then Elisha said . . . 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.*

### **II Kings 7:1**

- We know God cannot and will not lie.
- So, how does this unseemly and seismic reversal of fortune occur?
- This is the focus of today's message.

- Find four lepers at the entrance of (but outside) the gate of Samaria, as they were not allowed into the city.  
**See Leviticus 13:45-46; Numbers 5:1-4.**
- They are hungry and realize that death is certain if they do not do something
- They reasoned --
  - If we sit here, we die.
  - If we go into the city, we'll starve with everyone else.
  - Lastly, we could seek the mercy of the enemy; we **may** or may not live.

# I. Cannot Simply Sit Where You Are and Expect to Advance

- “Why are we sitting here until we die?”

## **II Kings 7:3**

- Must overcome inertia – sitting and waiting bring us no closer to our destination.
- *Hunger and lack peek into the window of a working man's house and dare not enter; however, they take up permanent residence in the home of the slothful.*
- **Matthew 20:1-8 (esp. vv. 6-7)**

## II. Must Be Willing to Take Some Risk to Improve

- Not talking about sheer recklessness and/or abandon.

“Now 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.” **v. 4**

Many languish hopelessly and in despair because they amplify the negatives and costs of advancement.

- “Costs too much.”
- “Many have tried and failed.”
- “That takes too much effort.”
- “What if I lose?”



# Remember Israel on the coast of Canaan (the Promised Land). Numbers 13-14

Thought taking on Canaanites presented too big a risk.

But Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, *who were* among those who had spied out the land, tore their clothes; <sup>7</sup> and they spoke to all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying: “The land we passed through to spy out *is* an exceedingly good land. <sup>8</sup> **If the LORD delights in us, then He will bring us into this land and give it to us,** ‘a land which flows with milk and honey.’ <sup>9</sup> **Only do not rebel against the LORD, nor fear the people of the land,** for they *are* our bread; their protection has departed from them, and the LORD *is* with us. Do not fear them.” **Numbers 14:6-9**

### III. Must Move from Vision to Mission

A nice plan is worthless if it is not acted on – in other words, we must move on the vision and execute.

We have thought and prayed about it, strategized, planned, and know where we want to go, now time to move.

*And they arose at twilight to go to the camp of the Syrians . . .* **II Kings 7:5**

Prolonged dreaming, wishing and wondering do no good!!

## IV. Share the Wealth

The lepers realized that to not share the blessing was wrong.

- Are we sitting on unshared and untapped blessings?

*But whoever has this world's goods and sees his brother in need, and shuts his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? | John 3:17*

- Must be careful not to become enablers.
- Sharing the wealth is awakening others to the means of helping themselves, so they can provide for themselves.
- Help others unlock the potential that lies within them so they can support themselves and be a blessing to others.

*A man of great anger will suffer punishment; for if you rescue him, you will have to do it again.* Proverbs 19:19

# SHARE THE GOOD NEWS OF CHRIST

*Go therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.*

Amen. **Matthew 28:19-20**

## Lord's Invitation Extended to All

- **Be added to the Lord's body --**
  - Hear the gospel (Acts 15:7, Romans 10:17)**
  - Believe (Hebrews 11:6, Acts 15:7)**
  - Repent (Acts 2:38)**
  - Confess (Acts 8:36, Romans 10:10)**
  - Be baptized for the remission of sin (Acts 2:38) or**



## Lord's Invitation (cont'd)

- ➔ Be reconciled unto the Lord **(1 John 1:8-9)**; or
- ➔ Desire prayer. **(James 5:16)**.