

An Army of Four

Lessons from the Lepers

2 Kings 7:1–20

Pastor Leia, Ph.D.

7 Elisha replied, “Hear the word of the LORD. This is what the LORD says: About this time tomorrow, a seah[a] of the finest flour will sell for a shekel[b] and two seahs[c] of barley for a shekel at the gate of Samaria.”
2 The officer on whose arm the king was leaning said to the man of God, “Look, even if the LORD should open the floodgates of the heavens, could this happen?”
“You will see it with your own eyes,” answered Elisha, “but you will not eat any of it!”

The Siege Lifted
3 Now there were four men with leprosy[d] at the entrance of the city gate. They said to each other, “Why stay here until we die? **4** If we say, ‘We’ll go into the city’—the famine is there, and we will die. And if we stay here, we will die. So let’s go over to the camp of the Arameans and surrender. If they spare us, we live; if they kill us, then we die.”

5 At dusk they got up and went to the camp of the Arameans. When they reached
the edge of the camp, no one was there, 6 for the Lord had caused the Arameans
to hear the sound of chariots and horses and a great army, so that they said to
one another, “Look, the king of Israel has hired the Hittite and Egyptian kings to
attack us!” 7 So they got up and fled in the dusk and abandoned their tents and
their horses and donkeys. They left the camp as it was and ran for their lives.

8 The men who had leprosy reached the edge of the camp, entered one of the
tents and ate and drank. Then they took silver, gold and clothes, and went off and
hid them. They returned and entered another tent and took some things from it
and hid them also.

9 Then they said to each other, “What we’re doing is not right. This is a day of good
news, and we are keeping it to ourselves. If we wait until daylight, punishment will
overtake us. Let’s go at once and report this to the royal palace.”

The city was starving behind the wall



Samaria under siege by the Arameans. No food in. No one out. A great famine.

Elisha said: flour and barley will be cheap by this time tomorrow.

> “Look, even if the Lord should open the floodgates of the heavens, could this happen?”
>
> The officer · 2 Kings 7:2, NIV



Four lepers at the gate

“Now there were four men with leprosy at the entrance of the city gate.”

2 Kings 7:3, NIV

God's rescue did not come through the palace, the army or the captain.

1.

God uses unlikely people

Outside the camp, but not outside God's sight

“As long as they have the disease, they remain unclean. They must live alone; they must live outside the camp.”

Leviticus 13:46, NIV

Heaven was looking at the gate.



2.

Faith begins when we stop sitting still

“Why stay here until we die?”

“They said to each other, 'Why stay here until we die?'”

2 Kings 7:3, NIV

The city

The gate

The enemy camp

Only one offers a chance to live.



The most dangerous thing is to do nothing.

They got up at dusk, and God had gone ahead

2 Kings 7:5, NIV

“At dusk they got up and
went to the camp of the Arameans.”

“…for the Lord had caused the Arameans to hear the sound of chariots and horses and a great army…”

2 Kings 7:6, NIV



3.

Blessing can become a trap



They ate, then started hiding things

"They [the lepers]entered one of the tents and ate and drank. Then they took silver, gold and clothes, and went off and hid them." 2 Kings 7:8, NIV

A whole city is still hungry on the other side of the wall.

God blesses us to make us a supply line, not a private storehouse.

What have you hidden in a tent: your testimony, your healing, your deliverance?

4.

Silence is not an option

“This is a day of good news”

“What we're doing is not right. This is a day of good news, and we are keeping it to ourselves. If we wait until daylight, punishment will overtake us. Let's go at once and report this to the royal palace.” 2 Kings 7:9, NIV

01

Conviction

02

Urgency

03

Action





Jesus is the Good News

They found an empty camp; we found an empty tomb.

We can not keep this to ourselves

The world needs...

The living water
The Bread of Life
The Miracle Worker

God's word always comes true

“God’s promise: So a seah of the finest flour sold for a shekel, and two seahs of barley sold for a shekel, as the Lord had said.”

2 Kings 7:16, NIV

The officer saw it with his own eyes but never ate:

“the people trampled him in the gateway, and he died”

2 Kings 7:20, NIV





The camp is empty. The table is full. The city is still hungry.

God uses unlikely people, including us.

Step out at dusk, trusting God has gone ahead.

Don't hide blessings in tents; don't stay silent.

“This is a day of good news.”

Jesus is calling!!

To the ARMY of God; Jesus’ followers:
Commit to telling one person this week.

To those that never accepted Jesus:
Today he is calling you to accept the good news of salvation
and be in awe with God can do for you!

Thank you for being here today!
And to our Vets and Families! We Salute you!