



Our World Needs You... To Share What You Have

Message notes, September 23, 2018

2 Kings 7:3-11

Today we focus on the great gift of salvation we have been given and the passionate call to share this gift!

- When was the last time you felt really excited about something: a present, an award, getting engaged, a big promotion, discovering you are expecting a child... weren't you bursting to share it with someone?!
 - When was the last time you felt excited about your life in Jesus? Were you "bursting" to share it?
- God has ordained that WE have the mission and privilege of sharing His gospel in the world.
- **II Kings 7:3-11** gives us an analogy of this call to "share what we have..."

The Hebrews of Samaria are under siege by the Syrian army. No food or supplies can get into the city; there is a drought, and the people are slowly starving. Outside the gates, four outcast lepers decide they might as well surrender to the Syrians – yes, they might kill them, but perhaps they will take them in and feed them. To stay where they were meant certain starvation. When these lepers arrive at the Syrian camp, no one is there! God sent noises of horses and chariots and the Syrians believed Hebrew allies were attacking so they left everything and fled. The lepers went in tent after tent – eating, drinking, and gathering treasure. Then they said – **"We are not doing right! This is a day of good news, and we are keeping it to ourselves. If we wait until morning, punishment will overtake us. Let's go at once and report this to the royal palace."** They did. And all the city came out to gather the plunder and were saved!

Gospel lessons from this story...

- 1. We ALL fall short:** They were lepers, outcasts, considered *less-than*, but God cared for them and used them to save the city. God is not looking for perfect people. He is looking for willing people. If you have received His gift (of love and salvation), go share it!
- 2. We ALL need salvation:** The lepers knew their condition – they were in a bad place: outside a starving city with a sieging enemy army before them. We must recognize our need for salvation.
- 3. We can ALL receive the gift:** The lepers did nothing to earn or deserve the rich plunder. It was totally a gift from God. His provision for them. His providence. God always initiates; opens a way. Our part is to step into His providence; receive His gift. This is what faith is. It is our "yes" response to the providence of God. No one is outside the grace/gift of God.
- 4. We will ALL meet God (someday):** The lepers said, "if we wait until morning, punishment will overtake us." God knows and sees all. He knows if we are sitting on His gift, "keeping it to ourselves." A morning is coming when we must account for what we did with what we have – like the parable of the talents: The servant with 1 talent, buried his (did nothing with it). The master was not pleased; the servant did nothing with what he had been given. His one talent was taken away. In Matthew 25, Jesus shares a picture of the kingdom of heaven when the Lord will separate all people into sheep and goats. The sheep will be welcomed into glory because they faithfully cared for others with the love of Jesus. The goats did not love/share with others. The Lord rejected them, even with their veiled cries to him as "Lord".
- 5. How will WE handle this "good news"?** (the rich plunder of the gospel)

- If you don't "have it," take a simple step of faith and receive God's gift of salvation through Jesus.
- If you DO "have it," with whom are you sharing it?