

From Misery to Missionary

2 Kings 6 & 7

²⁴ Afterward Ben-hadad king of Syria mustered his entire army and went up and besieged Samaria. ²⁵ And there was a great famine in Samaria, as they besieged it (2 Kings 6:24-25a).

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” (2 Kings 7:3-4).

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. ⁶ For the Lord had made the army of the Syrians hear the 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. 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 So they came and called to the gatekeepers of the city and told them, “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.”

¹¹ Then the gatekeepers called out, and it was told within the king's household. . . . ¹⁶ Then the people went out and plundered the camp of the Syrians.

- A potential tragedy

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- A potential tragedy
 - They were desperate



- A potential tragedy
 - They were desperate
 - They were decisive

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- A potential tragedy
- A powerful temptation

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- A powerful temptation
 - A sovereign act

. . . But when they came to the edge of the camp of the Syrians, behold, there was no one there. ⁶ *For the Lord had made* the army of the Syrians hear the sound of chariots and of horses. . . 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 (7:5b-7).

- A potential tragedy
- A powerful temptation
 - A sovereign act
 - A selfish act

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.



- A potential tragedy
- A powerful temptation
- A personal testimony

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” (7:9).

Then the people went out and plundered the camp of the Syrians (7:16).



