

2 Kings 7:17 "Now the king had put the officer on whose arm he leaned in charge of the gate, and the people trampled him in the gateway, and he died, just as the man of God had foretold when the king came down to his house."

2 Kings 7:18 "It happened as the man of God had said to the king: "About this time tomorrow, a seah of flour will sell for a shekel and two seahs of barley for a shekel at the gate of Samaria."

2 Kings 7:19 "The officer had said to the man of God, "Look, even if the LORD should open the floodgates of the heavens, could this happen?" The man of God had replied, "You will see it with your own eyes, but you will not eat any of it!"

2 Kings 7:20 "And that is exactly what happened to him, for the people trampled him in the gateway, and he died."

How can we apply this lesson to our life?

A. We should expect various trials in our life.

Job 14:1 "Man born of woman is of few days and full of trouble."

John 16:33 "I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

Romans 12:12 "Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer."

B. We should evaluate our life during troubled times.

C. We should experience growth in our faith as we face trials.

James 1:2 "Consider it pure joy my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ^[3] because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. ^[4] Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything."

D. We should express the good news to others.

Romans 10:14 "How then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? ^[15] And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

Share the Good News!

2 Kings 6:24-33

9/17/23

Lesson #10

I. There were multiple problems in Samaria.

A. The city was under a siege.

2 Kings 6:24 "Sometime later, Ben-Hadad king of Aram mobilized his entire army and marched up and laid siege to Samaria."

2 Kings 6:23a "So he prepared a great feast for them, and after they had finished eating and drinking, he sent them away, and they returned to their master. So, the bands from Aram stopped raiding Israel's territory."

B. The city was faced with a shortage of food.

2 Kings 6:25 "There was a great famine in the city; the siege lasted so long that a donkey's head sold for eighty shekels of silver, and a quarter of a cab of seed pods for five shekels."

C. The city was guilty of slaughtering their children.

2 Kings 6:26 "As the king of Israel was passing by on the wall, a woman cried to him, "Help me, my lord the king!"

2 Kings 6:27 "The king replied, "If the LORD does not help you, where can I get help for you? From the threshing floor? From the winepress?"

2 Kings 6:28 "Then he asked her, "What's the matter?" She answered, "This woman said to me, 'Give up your son so we may eat him today, and tomorrow we'll eat my son.'"

2 Kings 6:29 "So we cooked my son and ate him. The next day I said to her, 'Give up your son so we may eat him,' but she had hidden him."

2 Kings 6:30 "When the king heard the woman's words, he tore his robes. As he went along the wall, the people looked, and they saw that, under his robes, he had sackcloth on his body."

II. There was a major predicament for Elisha in Samaria.

A. The King planned to eliminate Elisha.

2 Kings 6:31 "He said, "May God deal with me, be it ever so severely, if the head of Elisha son of Shaphat remains on his shoulders today!"

B. The King's plan was exposed to Elisha.

2 Kings 6:32 “Now Elisha was sitting in his house, and the elders were sitting with him. The king sent a messenger ahead, but before he arrived, Elisha said to the elders, “Don’t you see how this murderer is sending someone to cut off my head? Look, when the messenger comes, shut the door and hold it shut against him. Is not the sound of his master’s footsteps behind him?”

2 Kings 6:33 “While he was still talking to them, the messenger came down to him.” And the king said, “This disaster is from the LORD. Why should I wait for the LORD any longer?”

III. There was the marvelous promise of relief for Samaria.

A. Elisha announced God’s detailed promise.

2 Kings 7:1a “Elisha said, “Hear the word of the LORD. This is what the LORD says: About this time tomorrow, a seah of flour will sell for a shekel and two seahs of barley for a shekel at the gate of Samaria.”

B. Elisha warned an officer for doubting God’s promise.

2 Kings 7:2 “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!”

C. Elisha witnessed God’s deliverance through desperate lepers.

1. The lepers decided to surrender to army of Aram.

2 Kings 7:3 “Now there were four men with leprosy at the entrance of the city gate. They said to each other, “Why stay here until we die?”

2 Kings 7:4a “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.”

2. The lepers saw the empty camp of Aram.

2 Kings 7:5 “At dusk they got up and went to the camp of the Arameans. When they reached the edge of the camp, not a man was there.”

2 Kings 7:6 “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!”

2 Kings 7:7 “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.”

3. The lepers seized some of the plunder for themselves.

2 Kings 7:8 “The men who had leprosy reached the edge of the camp, entered one of the tents and ate and drank and carried away 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.”

4. The lepers shared the good news with their people.

2 Kings 7:9 “Then they said to each other, “We’re not doing 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 7:10 “So they went and called out to the city gatekeepers and told them, “We went into the Aramean camp and not a man was there—not a sound of anyone—only tethered horses and donkeys, and the tents left just as they were.”

2 Kings 7:11 “The gatekeepers shouted the news, and it was reported within the palace.”

2 Kings 7:12 “The king got up in the night and said to his officers, “I will tell you what the Arameans have done to us. They know we are starving; so, they have left the camp to hide in the countryside, thinking, ‘They will surely come out, and then we will take them alive and get into the city.’”

2 Kings 7:13 “One of his officers answered, “Have some men take five of the horses that are left in the city. Their plight will be like that of all the Israelites left here—yes, they will only be like all these Israelites who are doomed. So let us send them to find out what happened.”

2 Kings 7:14 “So they selected two chariots with their horses, and the king sent them after the Aramean army. He commanded the drivers, “Go and find out what has happened.”

2 Kings 7:15 “They followed them as far as the Jordan, and they found the whole road strewn with the clothing and equipment the Arameans had thrown away in their headlong flight. So, the messengers returned and reported to the king.”

IV. There were many provisions available for the people in Samaria.

A. The people took the goods from the camp.

2 Kings 7:16 “Then the people went out and plundered the camp of the Arameans. So a seah of flour sold for a shekel, and two seahs of barley sold for a shekel, as the LORD had said.”

B. The people trampled the doubting soldier.