

P.M. OUTLINE
9/18/2016

(2 Kings 7:9) "THIS IS A DAY OF GLAD TIDINGS (GOOD NEWS)"

SUMMARY OF THE EVENT

(2 Kings 6:24-33) Ben-Hadad, king of Syria, gathered his army and surrounded the city of Samaria. There was a famine, and soon all of the food was gone. The famine was so terrible that a head of a donkey and a small portion of dove's dung sold for silver, and several women resorted to cannibalism. The king of Israel blamed God and wanted to behead God's prophet, Elisha. The king sends a messenger to Elisha.

(2 Kings 7:1-20) Elisha promises food, and tells the king's messenger that tomorrow flour and barley will be sold for a shekel each. The messenger would see this, but not eat of it. There were 4 lepers sitting outside the gates of Samaria. They were faced with a grim decision: die where they sat, die in the city, or die by surrendering to the Syrians. They decided to surrender to the Syrians. Arriving at the camp of the Syrians, they found something unexpected. The Syrians were gone, and they left all their provisions. They did not know that God had caused the Syrians to believe a great army had rallied against them, and the Syrians fled. The lepers were joyous, and they ran from tent to tent, eating and drinking, and hiding treasure. But one of the lepers said, "Wait a minute. We do not well. We're not acting right. This is a day of good news. We must go and tell the others." So they went and told the king of Israel, Samaria was saved, just as the word of the Lord promised it would be. The messenger saw it, but he died.

SUMMARY FOR US - the lepers had a message of glad tidings, good news, a message of plenty in a time of scarcity, a message of hope in time of despair, and a message of divine power in time of darkness.

The gospel is a message of good news, glad tidings, from God to a world of people.
(v9) "We are not doing right. This day is a day of good news, and we remain silent."

1. IT WAS A MESSAGE OF DELIVERANCE FROM DEATH

The lepers, the people in the city, were all under the sentence of certain death.
The gospel is a message of salvation, wonderful news: (Romans 6:23, 10:17)

2. IT WAS A MESSAGE THAT SOUNDED TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE

(2 Kings 7:14) "Go and see."
(John 6:35) "And Jesus said to them, I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst." Really?

3. IT WAS A MESSAGE OF URGENCY

(2 Kings 7:9) "If we wait till morning light ... "
(2 Corinthians 6:2) "now is the day of salvation" (see also Hebrews 4:7)

4. IT WAS A MESSAGE FOR EVERYBODY: (v9) "... let us go and tell"
(Mark 16:15-16) "preach the gospel to every creature"

(v9) "We are not doing right. This day is a day of good news and we remain silent"