

2 Kings 7:3-11 Discussion Questions

Sermon Outline

- **Intro**
- Prayer for the Hellinga Family
- The Revealing Nature of Black Friday
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 - The Backstory
 - Some Dead Men tell the greatest tale ever
 - Two Responses
 - The Lord fulfills His Word

- **The Backstory**
- North vs South
 - Not historic Israel- the ten Northern tribes who separated to establish their own false places of worship
 - Northern Kingdom had 20 kings before exile and none of them were faithful to the Lord
- Kings vs prophets
 - Kings were seen to represent the people as a whole
 - Prophets were sent to declare the Word of the Lord and call Israel out of idolatry and injustice and into covenant faithfulness
- Joram (Jehoram) vs Elisha
 - Jehoram was the son of Ahab and Jezebel, the king and queen known for leading the northern kingdom into the worship of the idol Baal.
 - Elisha was the prophet, who succeeded the legendary prophet Elijah and was shown to display twice as many miracles as Elijah.
 - 2 Kings 3.13-14
 - Though Elisha does not respect or honor the king, he saves his life on numerous occasions by declaring the position of the Syrian king who wants to ambush him
- 2 Kings 6.24-7.2
 - The Northern Kingdom is in besieged by Syria and in famine. The famine is so bad that two women have resorted to cannibalism.
 - The king sends a messenger to kill Elisha.
 - Elisha receives a word from the Lord to protect himself and then prophesies the Lord's rescue to Joram

- 2 Kings 7.1-2
 - 1 seah= about 12 pounds
- **Some Dead Men Tell the Greatest Tale Ever**
- Four lepers outside the gates consider three alternatives
 - Death in the city
 - Death at the gate
 - Potential rescue or probably death in Syrian camp
- Considering ourselves dead
 - Ephesians 2.1-3
- The Lord goes before them and causes the Syrians to fear enemy armies and run for cover, leaving food, drink, gold, silver, clothes, horses and donkeys.
- Lepers natural impulse collect as much as we can for ourselves and hide it
- Awareness of the need for others to hear the good news
 - ***Question- How have you experienced the saving grace of the Lord?***
- **Two Responses**
- The king, who had heard the Word of the Lord from Elisha, expresses doubt and fear.
- The servant, dares to suggest sending a small detachment to see if the good news is true.
 - ***Question- What fear keeps you from trusting the good news you have heard?***
- **The Lord Fulfills His Word**
- ***Question- Who needs to hear the good news that you have experienced because of Jesus?***

Discussion Questions

Feel free to choose what questions will be most helpful to your group to grow in their understanding of the Scripture and faithfully apply it to their lives.

Read 2 Kings 7:1-20

1. In vv. 1-11 we see the four lepers experiencing the grace of the Lord and then feeling compelled to share it.

a. How have you experienced the saving grace of the Lord? In what aspects of your testimony do you see the grace of the Lord most clearly and profoundly?

2. Next, we see that despite the fact that the king had already heard God's word through the prophet that God would provide miraculously for their deliverance (vv. 1-2), the king is still skeptical and reluctant to respond with faith to the announcement of good news. Instead, he is fearful and mistrusting.

a. What fear(s) keep you from trusting in the good grace that you have received from the Lord and being willing to them share it with others?

3. The judgment that comes upon the unbelieving commander is a stark reminder of the fact that God's word will come to pass, and that for those who reject it, it will mean judgment.

a. Who are those in your life who desperately need to hear the gospel?

Pastor Mike encouraged the congregation to take advantage of the Christmas season here and be intentional about our conversations with others, as well as inviting people to Christmas services. This is something that would probably be good to encourage people to do at this point.

b. How can we do a better job of fostering a sense of urgency in one another?

4. Sadly, the passage ends with the example of judgment, and not with the Israelites recognizing God's gracious deliverance and then worshiping Him. Similarly, we also can enjoy the immediate benefits of God's provision and yet fail to respond with the appropriate appreciation and worship.

a. How have you learned to be more mindful and grateful for the Lord's provision and blessings in your life?

b. What is an example of a recent blessing that you have enjoyed that you need to be more thankful for?

Suggested Prayer Prompts

- Pray that we would grow in our understanding of and appreciation for the great gifts that the Lord has given us in His son Jesus.
- Pray for those who you identified by name that God softens their hearts and would draw them to Himself.
- Pray that God would give us the boldness and urgency to share with others.