

A DAY OF GOOD TIDINGS

INTRODUCTION

- I. In the period of Israel's history in the Old Testament known as "The Divided Kingdom", we find Israel in a very weakened condition, leaving them open to attacks by the enemy.
 - A. We read of one such instance in 2 Kings 6:24-29 (Read).
 1. This siege was led by Ben-Hadad, king of Syria.
 2. The assault brought a very terrible famine upon the city of Samaria.
 - B. Among those suffering in the famine were four (4) lepers.
 1. They discussed their situation, as recorded in 7:3-4 (Read)
 2. In desperation, they decided to surrender to the Syrians.
 - a. To their surprise, they found that the Syrian camp had been abandoned. vs. 5-7
 - b. They first indulged in their newfound riches by eating, drinking and hiding treasures. v. 8
 - c. Upon reflecting on their luxuries, they realized that they needed to share it with others. v. 9
 - 1) This they began to do. vs. 10-11
 - 2) There is a valuable lesson that **we** can learn from these four lepers, when they said, "We do not well; this is a day of good tidings, and we hold our peace." (v.9)
- II. There are some interesting parallels between the account of the lepers and us today.

DISCUSSION

I. 1st, IN BOTH SITUATIONS THERE IS A FAMINE.

- A. The Israelites had a **famine of food**.
- B. Today, there a famine of the **word of God**. Cf Amos 8:11-12
 1. This famine is self-induced, as people fail to study the word. Hos. 4:6; 2 Tim. 2:15; 2 Pet. 3:18
 2. Just so, as there was an abundance of food in the Syrian camp, there is an abundance of Bibles and blessings that await those who will read and study it.
 - a. How many of you even opened your Bible at home this past week?
 - b. Just as we need food daily, we need God's word in our lives daily. Acts 17:11
 3. The lepers found food, and we can experience the joy of salvation by reading.

II. 2nd, IN BOTH CASES THERE ARE GOOD TIDINGS.

- A. When the lepers *found* and began to *enjoy* the food and other things, they referred to it as a "day of good tidings."
- B. In the matter of salvation, there are "good tidings", which is the very definition of the word "gospel", which brings good news to the lost. Rom. 10:13-16; 1:16

III. 3rd, IN BOTH CASES IT IS WRONG TO KEEP SILENT.

- A. The lepers said they did not do well to keep the good tidings to themselves. 2 Kings 7:9
- B. We do not do well; when keeping silent about the glad tidings of salvation, when our friends and relatives are starving in sin, and we don't share it with them.
 1. There are **consequences** of keeping silent.
 - a. One consequence is that of not obeying the great commission. Matt. 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16
 - b. Another consequence is that we are not preparing for our answer to God as "watchmen" for souls. Ezek. 3:17-21

1) Those who do not obey the gospel shall die in their sins. Mark 16:16; John 8:24

2) If they choose to disobey, that is their decision, but if we love their souls (and our own souls), we should give them a chance to learn and obey.

2. **WHY do so many keep silence?**

a. One reason is that they are starved themselves, not having returned to a state of famine. 2 Pet. 1:8-9

b. Another reason is our fear that some will reject the message.

1) let us boldly teach the truth to others. Acts 4:29-31; Eph. 6:19-20

2) Let us remember that some among the many WILL obey if they hear the truth.

c. Still another reason for keeping silent is our lack of confidence that we CAN tell others what to do to be saved.

1) If that be the case, study the scriptures thoroughly and write down your thoughts and present them to other Christians in an effort to learn **how** to present them to the lost.

2) We have aids (such as Bible films), and will work together as Christians to reach the lost.

CONCLUSION

I. This should be and can be a day of “good tidings” regarding salvation.

A. Christians enjoy the good tidings, because they have experienced the salvation it brings.

1. The lepers found food because they were “hungry” in the first place.

2. When they told the king, he was suspicious, thinking the lepers were laying a trap, knowing that the king and his household were also hungry.

3. The world today is hungry—starving for a genuine message of salvation.

4. Some in the world will believe the false messages that false teachers are presenting, as they are anxious for salvation, but they are still lost in sin.

5. Let’s share the **real** story of salvation that can be supported by truth. Isa. 8:20

B. Let us “do well” and tell the starving world about the “good things.”

II. If any here today are lost in sin, we urge you to obey and be saved.

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