



Appreciation—The Sinking Ship

Showing appreciation and being appreciated is vital in the cycle of deliverance. The following will open your understanding of how God delivers no matter how difficult the situation.

2 Kings 7:3-9 is about making right choices. It's also about God's deliverance in adverse times. It's about God providing a life raft when your ship feels like it's sinking.

"Why sit we here until we die?" from 2 Kings 7:3-9, is one of the Bible's most profound questions. Someone once said that this is because:

"Procrastination is the thief of time".

(2 Ki 7:3-9 KJV) And there were four leprous men at the entering in of the gate: and they said one to another, Why sit we here until we die? {4} If we say, We will enter into the



city, then the famine *is* in the city, and we shall die there: and if we sit still here, we die also. Now therefore come, and let us fall unto the host of the Syrians: if they save us alive, we shall live; and if they kill us, we shall but die. {5} And they rose up in the twilight, to go unto the camp of the Syrians: and when they were come to the uttermost part of the camp of Syria, behold, *there was* no man there. {6} For the Lord had made the host of the Syrians to hear a noise of chariots, and a noise of horses, *even* the noise of a great host: and

they said one to another, Lo, the king of Israel hath hired against us the kings of the Hittites, and the kings of the Egyptians, to come upon us. {7} Wherefore they arose and fled in the twilight, and left their tents, and their horses, and their asses, even the camp as it *was*, and fled for their life. {8} And when these lepers came to the uttermost part of the camp, they went into one tent, and did eat and drink, and carried thence silver, and gold, and raiment, and went and hid *it*; and came again, and entered into another tent, and carried thence *also*, and went and hid *it*. {9} Then they said one to another, We do not well: this day *is* a day of good tidings, and we hold our peace: if we tarry till the morning light, some mischief will come upon us: now therefore come, that we

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may go and tell the king's household.

These men had 3 choices.

Choice 1: The famine is in the city—if we go there, we shall die there (v4).

(2 Ki 7:3-5 KJV) And there were four leprous men at the entering in of the gate: and they said one to another, Why sit we here until we die? {4} **If we say, We will enter into the city, then the famine is in the city, and we shall die there: and if we sit still here, we die also.** Now therefore come, and let us fall unto the host of the Syrians: if they save us alive, we shall live; and if they kill us, we shall but die. {5} And they rose up in the twilight, to go unto the camp of the Syrians: and when they were come to the uttermost part of the camp of Syria, behold, *there was no man there.*

The city was filled with division and death.

Choice 2: If we sit here, we die also (v4).

(2 Ki 7:3-4 KJV) And there were four leprous men at the entering in of the gate: and they said one to another, Why sit we here until we die? {4} If we say, We will enter into the city, then the famine *is* in the city, and we shall die there: **and if we sit still here, we die also.**

They had contracted the non-lethal disease, leprosy, a sickness that affected the skin tissue and disfigured the body. Leprosy is mentioned approximately 70 times in the Bible. The well-known record of servant Gehazi contracting Naaman's leprosy tells us that Gehazi and his descendants were cursed with the disease forever.

(2 Ki 5:27 KJV) The leprosy therefore of Naaman shall cleave unto thee, and unto thy seed for ever. And he went out from his presence a leper *as white as snow.*

Like the parable of the Forgiving Father, their plight

had brought them to their senses.

(Luke 15:17-19 KJV) And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! {18} I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, {19} And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants.

The displaced son finally came to himself; waiting for this might be the most difficult aspect of your journey. He could have done nothing, but he would have died.

For the 4 lepers to do nothing meant starvation and death. This is akin to not recognizing Christ in your lives. Their disease would have continued eating them to death. What did they have to lose?

Sinking Peter learned to call out for his help.

(Mat 14:30-31 KJV) But when he saw the

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wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, **Lord, save me.** {31} And immediately Jesus stretched forth *his* hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?

His help was immediate.

The message is clear: Sit—and die.

Choice 3: Now therefore come, and let us fall unto the host of the Syrians: if they save us alive, we shall live; and if they kill us, we shall but die.

(2 Ki 7:4 KJV) . . . Now therefore come, and let us fall unto the host of the Syrians: if they save us alive, we shall live; and if they kill us, we shall but die.

They actually had only one way to go that wasn't obvious demise—to the Syrians.

We have only one way to go—to Christ.

What did the lepers find?

They found that there were no enemies there. (v5)

(2 Ki 7:5-6 KJV) And they rose up in the twilight, to go unto the camp of the Syrians: and when they were come to the uttermost part of the camp of Syria, behold, *there was* no man there. {6} For the Lord had made the host of the Syrians to hear a noise of chariots, and a noise of horses, *even* the noise of a great host: and they said one to another, Lo, the king of Israel hath hired against us the kings of the Hittites, and the kings of the Egyptians, to come upon us.

In times of great trouble, we may find ourselves haunted with unreal images and imaginations. Wait for God's deliverance and you will see that no enemies are there too.

Great Riches

Instead of increased poverty and hunger, they found just

the opposite. God has a way of doing this when you seek his deliverance. God's way is wonderful, sure and right. These men found great riches in the first tent they came to. They only needed one tent. You only need one sweep of God's hand.

(2 Ki 7:8 KJV) And when these lepers came to the uttermost part of the camp, they went into one tent, and did eat and drink, and carried thence silver, and gold, and raiment, and went and hid *it*; and came again, and entered into another tent, and carried thence *also*, and went and hid *it*.

A Desire to Share with Others

Lastly, they came upon a newfound desire to share their deliverances with others.

(2 Ki 7:9 KJV) Then they said one to another, We do not well: this day *is* a day of good tidings, and we hold our peace: if we tarry till the morning light, some mischief will

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come upon us: now therefore come, that we may go and tell the king's household.

What will you find?

You will find great things too. But, you must continue your journey. Get up and move.

Know that happiness isn't a key indicator of God's deliverance; God's riches, safety, sustenance, and love are.

You will have down days. Imagine how miserable the lepers felt, how miserable the misplaced son felt, how miserable Peter felt, how miserable Moses felt, how miserable Noah felt, and how miserable Jesus felt. God is not a judge to condemn you; he will help you with anything, even the 'impossible.' Take hold of the life raft of God's Word—never let go. Then is when the 'impossible' will become possible.

You will find:

- A great wealth of peace, hope, security and love.

- A desire to share the good of God's News with others.

It is at this time you would want to talk.

Perhaps one of your worst enemies is silence; holding pains and pressures inside.

Open yourself to God and others, and experience the greatest flow of deliverance you can. Peter didn't sink; he didn't stay silent—"Lord, help me". Neither did Moses—"let my people go". Neither did Noah—"but Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord and did according to all that God commanded him". Neither did Christ—"for this purpose was I reserved".

Call unto God in the name of Jesus Christ; then do what He says to do—the greatest form of appreciation you could show to God.

Much Love in Christ.

Jerry D. Brown