

DESPERATION AND DELIVERANCE

II Kings 6:24-7:20

We should rightly respond to our delivering God.

I. THE DESPERATE CONDITIONS (6:20-33)

A. A FAMINE IN SAMARIA (24-25)

1. Samaria is under siege and no can enter or exit the city
2. Deplorable food and fuel become unbelievably expensive

B. A FAMISHED WOMEN (26-29)

1. Crying out to a sarcastic king (26-27)
2. More concerned about an injustice than she is about cannibalizing her son! (28-29)

C. A FRUSTRATED KING (30-31)

1. Sorrowful (30)
2. Threatening (31)
 - The famine must somehow be Elisha's fault so he must die
3. Impatient (32-33)
 - He has determined that God is not going to do anything and waiting on Him is a waste of time

II. THE DELIVERING GRACE (7:1-15)

A. ELISHA'S PREDICTION (1)

1. Notice: Listen to the word of the Lord
2. Notification: The famine will end tomorrow!
 - Dramatically revealing this by indicating a rapid deflation in commodity prices

B. THE MESSENGER'S MOCKERY (2)

1. Blasphemous unbelief from the messenger
 - Doubting (and, in affect, denying) the Lord's ability to do this
2. Bold condemnation from Elisha
 - You'll see this but not eat of it (see v. 17)

C. THE LEPER'S ACTIVITY (3-10)

- The most unlikely of heroes!

1. Decision (3-4) > A reasonable choice given their circumstances
2. Discovery (5-7)
 - a. The Aramean's are gone (5)
 - b. God scared them (6-7)
3. Delight (8) > Eating food and hiding treasures
4. Determination (9) > A sensitive conscience convicts them of their selfishness
5. Declaration (10) > They go tell the city gatekeepers what they've found

D. THE KING'S HESITATION (11-15)

1. Suspicious (11-12)
 - a. It's just a ploy by the Arameans to draw the Israelites out of Samaria
 - b. He indicates no comprehension that this might be a part of God's plan and provision
2. Cautious (13-15)
 - a. He sends only four horses (not the five suggested) and four men to investigate
 - b. Though he has an army at his disposal, he sends no more than were in the leprous group!

III. A DISTURBING REALITY (6:30 and 7:16-20)

A. SORROW BUT NO REPENTANCE (6:30)

1. The cannibalism of the people should have shocked them into repentance
 - a. God had predicted this would happen when their hearts grew cold and calloused
 - b. See Lev. 26:27-29 and Deut. 28:47-57 (Note: this Deut. passage is extremely graphic)
2. The king mourns but does not repent
 - a. Much like Judas in Matt. 27:3-5
 - b. Unlike the king of Nineveh in Jonah 3:5-9
3. The cycle of sin continues - See Neh. 9:26-31

B. CELEBRATION BUT NO GRATITUDE (7:16)

1. They plunder and trade
2. However, they do not praise or thank God for His deliverance and provisions
 - See Jer. 5:23-25 and Rom. 1:21 for similar situations

C. PROPHECY BUT NO PERCEPTION (7:16-20)

1. The Message: God spoke
 - a. The Record (16-17)
 - b. The Repetition (18-20)
2. Their Mindset: Apathy > No one seemed to care and no one seemed impressed

CONCLUSION:

God can get our attention though desperation or by deliverance

- The fact is, He wants our attention, our affection, and our appreciation.

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