

## **AND WE HOLD OUR PEACE (2 Kings 7:8-11)**

### **I. The lepers delight (vs. 8a).**

- A. Notice their situation (vs. 3-4).
  - 1. They believed it to be better to try their hand with the Syrians than to sit there and starve to death.
  - 2. Dying quickly was much better than dying slowly.
- B. To their dismay, when they arrived at the outskirts of camp, no one was there because God had sent a noise of chariots and they ran scared thinking the Hittites or Egyptians had come (vs. 5-7).
  - 1. The army left everything - food, animals, belongings, everything.
  - 2. The lepers were rescued from certain death.
  - 3. They, like we would probably do, started to live it up.
- C. They delighted in their refreshment.
  - 1. They began to eat as if there was no tomorrow.
  - 2. They went from starving to having more than they could eat in a week.
  - 3. As Christians we are refreshed spiritually by the Bread of Life and allowed to drink at the fountain of the water of life (John 6:35; Revelation 21:6).
  - 4. We are spiritually refreshed daily with more than we can ever use while there are those around us lost in sin.
- D. They delighted in their riches.
  - 1. They were dirt poor a few minutes before this, having nothing and being outcasts of society.
  - 2. Now, they were hoarding riches to themselves.
  - 3. Christians are given the riches of spiritual blessings in through Christ (Ephesians 1:3).
  - 4. People around us are wallowing in spiritual poverty and we are rich with the presence, power and promises of God.
- E. They delighted in their raiment.
  - 1. They were normally dressed in rags, wearing what they had when they were pronounced leprous.
  - 2. They wore what people threw away, but now they were dressed with the finest clothing of the Syrian army.
  - 3. Before our conversion we were in spiritual rags (Isaiah 64:6), but now we have put on Christ (Galatians 3:27).
- F. Christians ought to be delighted to be such and enjoy the many blessings we have in Christ.

### **II. The lepers dilemma (vs. 8b-9).**

- A. Notice their realization - they had been so caught up in their new found riches that they had forgotten about the peoples suffering.
  - 1. They came to realize that they had been worse off than everyone and now were better off than all.
  - 2. They realized they were hoarding these things up and there were

- people who needed them badly.
  - 3. "We do not well" truly summed up the situation.
  - 4. The blessings we have from God are not for our happiness only but also for the whole world (1 John 2:1-2).
  - 5. We have been blessed in order to bless others and show them all the blessings that they could be enjoying.
  - 6. We do not well when we hoard up all of God's blessings to ourselves.
- B. Notice their reasoning - this was a day of glad tidings!
  - 1. They realized what they had was not for them only.
  - 2. They had what others needed and wanted to share.
  - 3. There are people all around us who need what we have.
  - 4. So many situations in which people find themselves bear this out for us.
  - 5. It would be a wonderful thing if Christians would realize that others need the message we have to tell.
- C. Notice their resolve - they decided to go and tell the city what they had found.
  - 1. They decided others needed what they had found.
  - 2. When we understand that lost people are dying all around us and we have the message they need, it ought to cause us to act for God.
  - 3. What we need is to see the need as Jesus did (John 4:35).
  - 4. The cross is not just for us but for all men and we need to tell others about it.

### III. **The lepers decision (vs. 10-11).**

- A. These men got through their dilemma with the right decision but now had to act upon that decision which is sometimes hard to do.
- B. Their decision involved courage because they were outcasts of society who had to approach the people at the gates.
  - 1. They stood the chance of being put to death or just completely ignored.
  - 2. It takes courage to share the gospel with a world that is steeped in sin.
  - 3. We used to be in the world and people may remember how we were and view us as no better than them.
  - 4. Regardless of the response we get, we must still share the message (Romans 10:13-14).
- C. Their decision involved compassion for people who had no compassion for them just a day earlier.
  - 1. These men were outcasts and no one would come near them because of their disease.
  - 2. Those with leprosy were considered dead and some families held funeral services for the one with the disease before the diseased person was dead.
  - 3. The lepers could have had the attitude of many that says we'll treat

- them the way we've been treated..
4. However those in the city needed to hear the message and they took it to them.
  5. Nothing on our part can show more love and concern than teaching someone the gospel.
  6. In spite of how someone has treated you in the past, of how they are now they still need the gospel message.
  7. We have a life changing message and we need to have compassion enough to take it to lost people.
- D. Their decision resulted in conversions.
1. When they brought the message to the gates there was at first skepticism and belief that it was a trick by the Syrians to lure them into their camp.
  2. When it was finally believed, their message resulted in the saving of a city.
  3. When we share the gospel message, we are not responsible for the results, only the part we control.
  4. When we determine to tell people the gospel message, some will believe and some won't, but we still must tell.
  5. We don't know how it will turn out when we teach someone the gospel.

Not an original outline but don't know the source.