



44. The Day of Famine

“When these lepers came to the outskirts of the camp, they entered one tent and ate and drank, and carried from there silver and gold and clothes, and went and hid them; and they returned and entered another tent and carried from there also, and went and hid them. Then they said to one another, [listen carefully to what this lepers said, they said] ‘We are not doing right. This day is a day of good news, but we are keeping silent,’” 2 Kings 7:8-9.

Syrians [Arameans] warred against Samaria in the days of Elisha. Famine was so bad in Samaria that a donkey's head sold for 80 shekels ... a half-cup of dove's dung sold for 5 shekels ... and two women boiled and ate a child. Imagine this, four lepers sat

at the gate. They said to one another, "*Why do we sit here until we die? If we say, 'We will enter the city, then the famine is in the city and we will die there; and if we sit here, we die also. Now therefore come, and let us go over to the camp of the Arameans. If they spare us, we will live; and if they kill us, we will but die,*" 2 Kings 7:3-4. So they went to the camp of the Syrians to beg for food ... but God had frightened the Syrians away leaving *everything* behind. The lepers found food, clothes, and riches. Then the events of today's scripture took place.

Our world is in a severe spiritual famine. But we have found the gift of eternal life and the riches of His grace. The Gospel is God's good news about Jesus. It is not right for a believer to be silent about the Gospel. *This day is a day of good news ... we must not be silent.*

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