

Text: 2 Kings 7 / 3-10

Subject: We do not well not to tell

Background of text

At the time of our text Benhaddad was the king of Syria. This king had lead an attack force upon the Samaritain city which was occupied by jewish people at this time.. He devised a tactic that would allow him to conquire the city without shedding any of his soliders blood. He's tactic was to so surrond the city^s that nobody could get in or out and foar enough away for the cities wall as to prevent any archer from shooting an arrow an stricking any of his soliders. This tactic was so successful that the blockade prevented food from getting into the city. This tactic was designed to slowly starve the people into submission.

It was a tactic that worked so well that during the seise Benhadad simply allowed his soliders to lounage around in camp with only one command; dont let anyone pass by with any food. The soliders followed those orders well for the depths of starvation was great all over Samaria. It is known that the people became so destitute, that they ^(6:26-31) ~~canabalistic~~. Mothers are reported to have actually killed their children to maintain their survival. ^(6:25) Food was so scarce in Samaria that even ^{the} head of a donkey looked upon as defiling and unclean to the Jew wazs worth its weight in silver.

2K 3-10

Now its against this background that we take our text. The first thing we notice is the ³⁻⁵ delima of 4r Lepords. In ancient times lepers were required to live outside the city gate, consiq uently around every villiage or city there grew up lepers camps outside the city walls. Once the disease was discovered, the person was banished from society. He could not remain with in the city gates. So just outside the city walls of Samaria we find 4 distitute inividuals with this dread malidy. They had made there residence outside Samaria and were in what we might say was between az rock and a hard place, for on one hand they could not enter the city gates of Smaria because they had leparocy and they knew they would be shoo t on site by the centurees

and yet they could not escape for just outside their camp was the Syrian Army. They had (no food) for their kindsmen and friends inside the city who normally came out to throw food in their direction had no food themselves. No food was coming from either side. These lepers apparently did not have too many choices. ~~XX~~ When they narrowed down their choices they (faced only two)

① They could stay where they were and starve to death, or they could do something bold with the ultimate possibility of death. There ^(vsa) (action) was bold but they really didn't have anything to lose.

These lepers were convinced that their way of survival was through some form of (action.) They were not going to remain there and starve to death just outside the city walls. ~~XX~~ You know there is a real sense that this story is a parable of the 20th century church. For the church is in the same position as these 3 lepers. We don't have many options, we don't have too many choices left. Our choices are limited. To remain as a church in a static unmoving condition will bring about slow starvation but ultimate death. To fail to try and meet spiritual needs in this community ~~where we live~~ means that we will become atrophied and dry up right ^{where} ~~where~~ we are. The only possible choice facing the church today lies along the lines of action.

Like those lepers we have nothing to lose for after all this world is not our home. / and if we're afraid that we are going to lose what the world has to offer this proves our sympathies don't lie with Christ. For our Lord has reminded us that we are a pilgrim people and ~~were not too~~ put our roots too deep in this life that we want to be willing to leave it. Our home is somewhere else so we have very little to lose because of aggressive action.

Our dilemma as a church is either (evangelism) or (extension). We'll either do it or will die. ~~or~~

We've not only a story to tell to the nation,

why there was food and drink and fortunes from the spoils of war waiting to be taken. Food and treasures beyond belief and not a single human being in site. Now these 4 lepers had no way of knowing that the Lord had intervened. That God had created a great noise that sounded like a giant army approaching their camp. When those Syrians encamped around Samaria heard that God sent noise they began running and didn't look back until they reached the Jordan River heading north on their way to Damascus. The soldiers jumped to a conclusion which was motivated by their fears. They concluded that the noise just had to be a huge mercenary army hired by the king of Samaria. The God sent noise, was construed to be a mighty army marching on their camp site and out of fear and trembling these soldiers ran all the way home leaving all their food, supplies and treasures behind.

So the risk that these lepers took paid off rather handsomely. They ate and drank as only starving people can. And then in their greed they saw the precious treasures which had been the Syrians war spoils. They began to carry off these treasures to hide them in the outlying areas. They continued to eat and feast in their good fortune thinking only of their good fortune. After having hidden the treasure and satisfying their hunger they laid down for the evening. ~~xxxx~~ ⁵⁻⁹ It was in the middle of the night possibly when one got up and said to the others, "We do not well". This is a day of good tidings and we hold our peace. If we tarry until morning sometime bad will happen to us.

Their discovery was great, but in the midst of their joy and happiness they were not sharing the good news with anyone. ^{2 Kings 9-10} One understood at least, that they had a duty to fulfill. They knew the glorious good news that had the power to save a starving city. A whole city filled with people so hungry that they were turning cannibal. Thank God for the (honesty) and (con- cern of one of these lepers. At least the one aroused the others by saying

"We do not well. Its often been said an honest confession is good for the soul for when we admitt what we know is true its damaging in one to our ego but in another it allows us to mature. It doesnt leave us with a very perry picture when we are honestly admitt what we know is true abt. our lives. Thand God for the honesty of these 4 lepers they said we do not well.

You know we live in a day of good tidings and were holding our peace. We not sharing the good news of Jesus chrsit. (iEMAMPLE: Is told of a young man ~~planning~~ to spend his summer working in a lumber camp, a long way from home. His immidiate fears was that he would be ridiculed for his xian faith or worse he might even have to suffer for it. So he ~~was~~ went to his pastor and sared these feelings and requested prayer. The pastor keep the agreement and even wrote him several times during that summer. Dinally summer ended and thedyoung man retunred home. When his pastor saw him, he adked How did things go this summer. (Great. the young man replied, not a sould fonnd out, that I was a christian.)

I make take a great deal of honesty to admitt that we have never shared Z with any other human being. If that shoe fits, we do not well....

→ We're living in a flay of prosperity wsth abundant food and pleasure for a royal king along with the eteraal riches and truths of the eternal God. We're feasting at the banquet table of plenty and rather than busing our selves with sharing the good news which is for all people we are content to hold our peace. (I came to you in love, but I want to remind you as I remeind myself

→ that we do not well when we ignor what we lack. ^{next page} We're held in grips of our ignorance to the wordd of God. ~~There~~ There are more than 100 members of sunlight baptist church that are absent from regular bible study programs. Are you honest enough to admit what you lack. On wednesday nite we've been studing the bood of acts. Is the churk filled with people huggry for the

word of god? Hardly, Hardly, Do you not know that the Bible reflects Gods will. Paul in the Col epistle prayed that God would ~~fall~~ fill the people with a knowledge of His will and then he stated the reason for that prayer.... The reason for the prayer was that they might live lives worthy for the Lord. What I'm saying to you is your not living a life worthy to God if your living in ignorance of God's word.

The will of God is not something to be looked for it something to be found. The Bible contains Gods will and ignorance to his word means an indifference to things of the spirit. We do not well to ignore what is lacking in our spiritual lives. The greatest need in Southern Bap. Church today is an ignorance of Gods word and lack of spiritual devotion to the teaching and preaching of it. Brother we do not well when we take a position of leadership in church and then fail to give it our utmost best, were awol more than half the time, we do not well. Sunday school teachers that dont pay the price show a gross injust to their high calling through jesus christ. WE do not well when we ignore the things we lack. We do not well when we make excuses after excuse of why we've been away from churchh attendance. My soul we've time for everything else in this world but to attended a worship service. Listen we've time engou to do the things we really care abt or want to do. We do not well..... Like these lepers we do not well when we ignore what we lack and when we horde what we have.

If we horde and hide our treasureds we will become a little admiration society contined to patt each other on the back and hadd out ackalides when they arent really ^{merited} needed. We need to remember to whom much is given much shall be required. These lepers were indulgening in (gross selfishness) and so are we when we have facilities and blessing for God and we horde all thes things selfishly. We do not well when we do not share with others the love

of jesus chirst. Our greatest need in christiom today is a lack of comitment to the (Lordship of jesus) in our ^{Lives} hearts. I've knever know a person who made christ lord that was anything but filled with the spirit. And that is the place where we all need to begin. ~~We need to allow Gods spirit to begin to take more and more of our lives.~~ What I,m saying is that if we're really trying to make christ lord we do not weel to horde the things we have.

Dr. graham scottagin had just concluded a sermon on the Lordship of christ a young lady remained after the services to talk with him. She admitted to him that she should have respoened to the invitation but she held back because of her fears of God. She said I am afarid that if I surrender my life I'll have to gve up my carear an music to which I'm so committed and dedicated and I'm afarod God will call me to be a missionary. Dr. Scogginss smiled and simply refered her to the words of Simeon Peter found in Acts chp 10:14... There simeon said, ~~Notso~~ Notso Lord. Dr. Scoggins took those words and pointed out the contridication. you cant in the same breath say Not so Lord. He wrote those words on a piece of parer and gave her the papaer and a pencile. He told her to mark out on the paper one of the two words. He left the room. Hed returned after awhaile to find the pa $\frac{1}{2}$ er was stained with ltears yeat the ladies face rediant with the glow of christ. He took the paper and found the word notso marked out leaving only the other Lord. This is truely a day of good tidings, if X is our Lord We do not well to hold our peace and not tell.....