

THE REDEEMED CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF GOD

CHRIST THE LORD PARISH, LEKKI 1, LAGOS.

DIGGING DEEP

TOPIC: The Study of the life of Elisha - A DAY OF GOOD TIDINGS

TEXT: 2 KINGS 7: 1 – 20

Date: 11/07/2023

Introduction:

This study is based upon the story of the four lepers who made an amazing discovery of wealth and felt compelled to share it with as many people as possible. Samaria was besieged by the Syrian army. Inside and outside the city terrible things were happening, 2Kings 6:24-31.

The chapter opened with God's intervention, to bring an end to the terrible situation. God spoke. 2Kings 7:1-2, but as usual, there are those who would doubt God, vs. 2, the lord in whose hand the king leaned doubted and mocked the prophet. Verse 3, introduced the lepers. Who, between life or death decision, chose the probability of life, vs. 4b. The solemn teachings in this story can be liken to the desperate need of the spiritually famished multitudes around us, and our responsibility to tell them of the wonderful provision that God has made for their salvation. 2 Kings 7:1-11. Before, we look into that, let us briefly remind ourselves of the God we serve, look at Elisha, the prophet and the lepers, who like us, were instruments in the hand of God.

The God we serve:

- A) At his own time, He will intervene in the terrible situation of His children; Ex. 3:2-8, 2Kings 7:1.
- (B). When God speaks, He brings it to pass. Is.55:11. (C).The ways and manner He executes His promises are usually beyond human reasoning. Is.55:8-9. (D). He moves before us. When He sends us, He goes well ahead. Vs 6-7. Joh. 16:33.

Elisha:

(A). A prophet who was not moved by what the situation to declare the words of God. He trusted God enough. (B).He was fearless. Vs. 2b, but of great wisdom, he did not bother to tell the lord how he will not partake of it. (C). As a true prophet, God honoured His word in his mouth.

The Lepers, the Children of God.

- a. They made a move, a step forward. Deut.2:1-3. 2Kgs. 7:3-4. Josh. 3:1-3. For that great miracle to change levels, you must step out. If they remained outside they would die; if they went to the Syrian camp they would probably be killed or live. But they did not die but found plenty of food, clothes etc., to satisfy their hunger to the full!
- b. They did not keep the good tidings to themselves. They remembered the thousands who were dying inside the city while in their new wealth. 9-11.

The Typology of the Passage: Teachings:

The story greatly challenges to those of us who have discovered Christ as the Bread of Life, the living water from who we drink and never thirsty again. John 4:14. Yet, we are surrounded by millions of famished, dying souls who are in danger of the second death (Revelation 20:12-15). The words of the four lepers in vs 9, showed the following:

1. THE PRIVILEGE WE ENJOY

“This is a day of good tidings!” vs 9, said the lepers. Every Christian can say the same. For more than 2000 years, daily has been a day of good news. Luke 2:10-11; Everyday, is a day of salvation. 2 Cor. 6:2; Gal. 4:4-6; 1 Tim. 1:15.

We are in the days of Grace. It is not by work but by grace. The lepers did not work for the wealth. It was the work of grace. Rom. 3:24; Titus 3:7. Sinners are welcome and sure of salvation if they come to the Savior, Joh. 6:37. “Whosoever will”, Rev. 22:17. ‘As many as, received him...” Joh. 1:12. The good tiding is for all those still inside the city, starving and perishing. Joh. 3:16, in love the Lord dealt with us mercifully. It is a privilege!

2. THE SIN WE COMMIT

“We do not well ...and we hold our peace”, vs. 9b. Multitudes of Christians are committing the sin (crime) of silence, indeed. It is 2000 years since Jesus came to Bethlehem and later died on Calvary for our sins, yet there are still many millions of souls who have never heard of His love. Thousands of Christians go to church each Sunday and sing of God’s great salvation, but during the week they “keep it to themselves”. By our silence we sin against the Lord who depends upon us to proclaim the word of reconciliation, the main reason why Jesus came to the world. 2Cor. 5:18-19. Thereby, we sin against Christ for allowing those souls for whom Christ died to perish, 1Joh. 2:2. We should watch our sin of selfishness and the dreadful danger, of which the four lepers remind us.

3. THE DANGER WE FACE

“If we tarry till the morning light, some mischief will come upon us.” What is the result of our failure to evangelize or keeping the good tides to ourselves?

- a. Loss of the souls around us. Rom. 6:23.
- b. Loss and punishment for ourselves. Eze. 33:7-9. David prayed in Ps. 51:14-15, for the guilt of silence when he should speak out. 1 Cor. 3:11-15, tells us of the loss of our eternal reward even if we remain saved, on the Day of Judgment.

4. THE ACTION WE MUST TAKE

This is indicated in the last part of verse 9, 10-11.

1. 1. *Determined/Intentional action.* Vs. 9c, “now therefore come that we may go and tell the king’s household”. If one Christian wins 10 souls for Christ this year, and these ten each wins ten in the next year, these hundred then winning ten each in the third year, and so on, the result would be that in the tenth year ten thousand million souls would have been saved, and before the completion of the tenth year the full population of the world would be gathered in!
2. 2. *UNITED action.* “...that **we** may go” said the lepers. The power of unity. Gen. 4:4-6; Duet. 32:30; Heb. 10:25. Mk. 2:1-5. Working together yields multiple results. It is wonderful what one dedicated man can do, but how much more can a whole church of dedicated witnesses do for the salvation of souls!
3. 3. *SACRIFICIAL action.* Who is ready to go? To reach certain places, as commanded in Mat. 28:19, we must be prepared to leave our comfort zones.
4. 4. *VOCAL action.* Note the word “...tell” in vs. 9. This is something we can all do. Will you obey Mk 5:19?
5. 5. *URGENT action.* The lepers said, “**NOW** therefore come...” The time is short, Rev. 3:11; Rev. 22:11, the Lord is coming. The opportunity is going, Joh. 9:4. The lost are dying.

When, we choose to go and tell, prophesies of God become fulfilled. The name of God is gloried. The good tides spread quickly. In Acts 5:40-42, the apostles refused to keep their mouth shut despite the beating they received.

However, we must be children of God in the first place. You can speak of what you have not experienced or know of. Then, we need the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit to be successful. Acts 1:8.

