

=FAVORITE BIBLE CHAPTERS=

Lesson 41

II Kings 7

INTRODUCTION: Here is an amazing story about four lepers. This story is applicable to all of us.

I. THEY WERE LEPROUS MEN. II Kings 7:3. (Discuss the disease of leprosy with the class.)

II. THERE WERE FOUR LEPERS. The fact that there were four would imply that they represent all humanity, those from the four corners of the earth—the north, the east, the south, and the west. In the Bible, “four” is the number of the earth.

III. THEY TOOK A GAMBLE. II Kings 7:4. There was a famine in the land. If the lepers sat still, they died. If they went into the city, they died, for there was no food there. They decided that the only chance they had was to give themselves up to the enemy. In this case, the enemy was Syria. These men decided that if they went to Syria and gave themselves up, they could only be killed or be fed. What could they lose? They were going to die anyway, so they decided to chance it and go surrender to the Syrians.

IV. THEY WERE STAYING AT THE GATE OF THE TEMPLE. Notice the words in II Kings 7:3, “at the entering in of the gate.” They knew where they could most likely be fed. They knew that the kind of person that went to the temple was the kind of person most likely to feed them. People may criticize the church all they want to, but when they get hungry, they come to the church. When they are in need, they go to the preacher or the church. With all the faults of the church and with all the faults of Christian people, they are still the most helpful people on earth to those in need. This is as it should be.

V. THE LORD PERFORMED A MIRACLE. II Kings 7:5-7. The Lord caused the Syrians to hear a noise of chariots and a noise of horses. The Syrian army thought that their enemy was coming, so they fled. Here is a picture of salvation; it is all of the Lord. It is from Heaven, not from man. It is by grace, not by works. (Teacher, explain the plan of salvation here.)

VI. GOD PROVIDED FOR THE LEPERS. II Kings 7:8. They came to the camp. The Syrians had fled and left their belongings. Notice what the four lepers found: food, drink, silver, gold, and raiment. This is what God gives us at salvation. The raiment symbolizes the robe of righteousness with which we are covered. The silver symbolizes redemption. The gold symbolizes that we are God’s children; therefore, we are royalty. The food symbolizes the Word of God. All of these things God gives us with salvation.

VII. THE LEPERS DID SOMETHING WRONG. In II Kings 7:8c, notice the words, “and went and hid it; and came again, and entered into another tent, and carried thence also, and went and hid it.” This was the wrong they did. They did not share with others what they had found. They hid it. Notice II Corinthians 4:3, “But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost.” We are not to hide the good news of the Gospel. We are to spread it and tell others of it.

VIII. THE LEPERS REALIZED THEIR WRONG. Notice II Kings 7:9a, “Then they said one to another, We do not well: this day is a day of good tidings, and we hold our peace.” They realized that God would punish them if they did not share what they had found, so they went to tell others what they had found so others might share it. When a person comes to Christ and receives the blessings of God and of salvation, he is not to keep it to himself. He is to go back to the world and tell others what he has found so that they too might enjoy the blessings of God. (Teacher, discuss soul winning at this point. Tell the pupils how to lead a soul to Christ and encourage them to do so.)