

Food in a Time of Famine 2 Kings 6 & 7

Food in a Time of Famine Introduction

- *"Christianity is one beggar telling another beggar where he found bread."*
 - *Daniel Thambyarajah "D. T." Niles (1908 – 1970), Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) Tamil evangelist, president of the Ceylon Methodist Conference*

- The story we will read today provides us with a helpful illustration of the truth D.T. Niles expressed.
- We are in the place of helpless beggars, who have discovered the Bread of Life.
- We are simply compelled to share it, having access to an unlimited supply.

- Joram son of Ahab is now the king of Israel.
- Ben-hadad II is king of Syria.
- Elisha the prophet, successor to Elijah, is in the midst of his active ministry.

- Elisha was a powerful prophet, much like his predecessor.
- Much like Ahab, Joram was an evil king.
- War between Israel and Syria continued.

Ben-hadad's Siege 6:24-33

- 6:25 a *kab* = about a cup
- 6:26-29 On Cannibalism see Leviticus 26:27-29

- 6:31 Joram is blaming the prophet for the nation's trials.
- Ahab similarly blamed Elijah for a lengthy drought.

- 6:32 the elders These men were spending time with Elisha the prophet.
- Perhaps Israel still had some faithful men left in it.
- Before the messenger arrived – the Lord revealed the messenger's coming to the prophet beforehand.

- 6:33 "Why should I wait for the Lord any longer?"
- In other words, "What good is waiting upon God? He is not meeting our needs as we hoped."

- How long are you willing to wait upon God?
- If financial provision does not come when you hope, at what point will you resort to dishonesty?
- If you are praying for a wife or husband, at what point will you abandon your faith in order to get one?

Elisha's Prophecy 7:1-2

- A *seah* was about 7 quarts.
- Compare with the cup of dove's dung for 5 shekels in 6:25.
- Take special note of the prophecy regarding the captain.
- It will come to pass exactly as foretold.

The Lepers' Discovery 7:3-20

- 7:4 We're going to die one way or the other.
- The Lepers' Discovery 7:3-20
 - *"He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose."*
 - *Jim Elliot (1927 – 1956), missionary to Ecuador, killed by Huaorani tribesmen.*
- 7:9-10 Let us go and tell the king's household.
- The lepers rightly realize there is more provision available than they need. They simply must share it.
- It is exactly like this for us with the gospel of Jesus Christ.
 - *"Christianity is one beggar telling another beggar where he found bread."*
 - *Daniel Thambyarajah "D. T." Niles (1908 – 1970), Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) Tamil evangelist*
- 7:9-10 The lepers don't seem to understand what has actually happened.
- They only know what they have found.
 - *One ounce of testimony is worth a ton weight of argument, and overpowers all objection ... Let us remember that we are called to be witnesses of what God hath done for us.*
 - *F. B. Meyer (1847 – 1929)*
- 7:9-10 You may not be a theologian.
- You certainly have a lot of growing and changing to do now that you are a Christian.
- Still, you know what God has done in your life so far.
- 7:16 according to the word of the Lord
- God is faithful. What more can we say?
- 7:17 as the man of God had said
- 7:20 And so it happened to him Sadly, the captain never got to enjoy God's provision when it finally came.

Food in a Time of Famine Conclusions

- Are we willing to take risks – to stick our necks out for Jesus?
- Consider the lepers.
- They knew that they were going to die one way or another.
- They decided to take a chance by going to the Syrian camp.
 - *“He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose.”*
 - *Jim Elliot (1927 – 1956)*

- Jim Elliot and his friends stuck their necks out and lost their lives while attempting to share the gospel. Do you think they regret it now?
- Their story is told in the 2005 movie *End of the Spear*.

- Don’t feel as if you need to have everything together before you can be a blessing to others.
- The city of Samaria was saved by a random discovery made by four leprous beggars.
- Imagine what God can do through us.

- God gives his word freely. It’s ours to share.
 - Isaiah 55:1-3
 - Matthew 10:7-8
 - John 6:35-36, 40

 - *If people don’t believe the Word of the Lord, they won’t be ready for His coming; but if we don’t give them the message, they can’t be ready for His coming.*
 - *Warren Wiersbe (1929 –)*

- The Great Commission “Go and make disciples ...” implies that God intends to use us in order to save souls all over the world.
- Each of us has a part to play in this great enterprise.
- We may simply have to accept the fact that God can use people like us.

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