

Intro: Couple of months ago I did something I NEVER do! Channeling my millennial side: Restaurant Pic of food!
 What do you do with good news? You tell everyone, right! New Baby, Fantastic Restaurant, Dream Job
 For most of us, when something fantastic happens...we can't wait to get the news out!
 Today close our series on "The Whisper Of The King" I want to look with you at the story of 4 men w/ Good News
 2Kings 6:24-7:20 (REVIEW the Story)

1. SITUATION: Like The People In The Story We Live In Desperate Times. 6:24-31

- We forget because we become accustomed to the darkness
 THEM: Besieged/Famine US: Our Country Now Full of Darkness
- Occasionally something happens to break through remind us how bad it really is!
 THEM: Eat Children! US: School shootings, Police shootings, Drug Overdoses
- Just like the people in the story...we despair, get angry at God!
 THEM: King: Elisha is a dead man! 31-33 US: God, WHY?

2. KINGS MAN We Struggle To Believe That Even God Can Help. 7:1-2

When we get to place of despair and anger...we struggle...we simply can't bring ourselves to believe even God Help!

- But...if we are listening, God will speak light to darkness, life to death **HEAR WHAT THE LORD SAYS!** Vs 1
- Just like the officer, we struggle to believe God! Heard...Didn't believe! Vs 2
- We HEAR...but we don't accept...we READ...don't believe! Lack of faith holds us back!
- Notice: His lack of faith held him back...even when everyone around him was blessed! Vs 2
"even if the floodgates of heaven were opened...no way!" NOT EVEN GOD CAN HELP! (Put that on hold!)
 When WE have That attitude it DESTROYS us, exactly as it did him!
 Listen: I ACTUALLY BELIEVE the Gospel I preach! God is still in the miracle business.
 Still healing...Still restoring...Still redeeming...Still working in the life of those that trust in Him!

Applic: Our problem is, We don't believe...even when we KNOW what bible says: Heb 11:6

"And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him."

Illus: Story of Two trips to Mexico:

- Trip one: 8-10 years ago...*"Dennis...I'm done...my company is going to go bankrupt...lose everything: 1 bid"*
- Trip two: This past week: That one job came in...now I have 14-16 (One is a 14 mil remodel on a 26 mil house)
 What made the difference: He continued to serve God...continued to believe...continued to trust

3. 4 LEPERS We Have To Step Out In Faith...No Reserve...No Plan B...Simply Trust God!

Rick Amato says this: *"When you come to the place that Jesus is all you have...you realize, Jesus is all you need!"*

That's the place the men in the story came to: Look at what happens: 7:3-11

- They STEPPED OUT IN FAITH: The only hope they had was moving forward
- God STEPPED UP FOR THEM! When they moved they discovered God was already at work! (vs 6-7)

We KNOW this spiritual principle! We see it over and over in the Scriptures. No better example than the children of Israel standing on the bank of the Jordan River at flood stage...looking: When the soles of their feet touched water!

Here is the reality for us...We have to step out and trust God. YOU have to step out and trust God. When you KNOW He is in it...can't wait. Some of us this morning are standing on the Jordan waiting water go down: NEVER WILL! Some of you are just like the lepers...stuck in a place that is killing you..slowly DYING where you are...not able to go back...because there isn't anything for you in the past...but AFRAID to go forward. Listen...it's time to MOVE! Time to step out in faith...time to forget the past...stop holding onto what is slowly killing you...and step out into the future God has for you!

What is it that God is calling you to this morning? Where are you holding back because you are afraid? What do you KNOW God is leading you toward...but you are afraid to take that step of faith. DO IT! Water isn't going down until you do! Step out...Trust God...Move forward. Be obedient to His call in your life. Don't wait...Take that step of faith

- Accept Christ Be Baptized Get engaged in Bible Study Join a ministry
 Don't stay where you are slowly dying...Trust That God Has Something Better...and Step into It!

4. PERSPECTIVE: God's Work In Your Life Is Greater Than YOU!

7:8-9

- *It's easy for us to sit in comfort and judge the lepers...But we forget what they were living with!*
~Outside the city walls because they were considered spiritually unclean...judged by God: Not worthy
~Even when the city was under siege, they were left outside...totally exposed to enemy.
~People inside were starving, what is the chance ANYONE would take pity on them...toss them a crumb
- *It's hard for us to believe that God would work on our behalf...that we deserve His grace! Vs 8*
~Think about that...God did an AMAZING MIRACLE for Them...Those the whole world thought were unworthy were the special recipients of God's Grace!
~I know so many people that feel like that. They aren't worthy. They are too far away from God.
~God couldn't possibly care about THEM! They aren't good enough, spiritual enough, deserving enough
- *Yet God moved on their behalf...when He did...when He performed this amazing miracle: 1st Thought of Self!*
~ Their FIRST inclination...was to take care of themselves
~They went and got food...silver...gold...cloths...Went off and hid them!
~Then...they did it AGAIN!
~It wasn't until the third time they finally came to their senses:
WHAT WE ARE DOING ISN'T RIGHT! IT'S A DAY OF GOOD NEWS...AND WE ARE KEEPING IT TO OURSELVES
- They finally realized...What God was doing wasn't just for Them! God's work IN them...wasn't just FOR them!
~We need to think of someone other than ourselves...we need to think of the city...
~We need to think of the people that are just on the other side of the wall...starving
~They don't KNOW that salvation is right in front of them...right around corner...within their reach
~They will not know...unless WE tell them!

Applic: If we are honest, you and I are just like the lepers, aren't we?

- ~We get so consumed with taking care of ourselves, our family, our friends we forget the darkness around us
- ~We live in a very dark world...a world that is hurting...struggling...a world that has lost it's way and is getting further and further from God every single day!
- ~Just like the lepers...those of us who find our way to what WE need...have to be careful...not to hold on to it
- ~We need to share the Good News as well!

5. THE DIFFERENCE: Between HEARING What God Says...and BELIEVING What God says. Vs 17-20

- The lepers told the city gatekeepers...who told the palace officials...who told the King...Checked it out: TRUE!
- So when word of what had happened got out...people left the city...plundered the camp
- Price of food because EXACTLY what the Prophet Elisha said it would be!
- BUT: The man who heard...and DIDN'T BELIEVE...lost his life!

THERE IS A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HEARING WHAT GOD SAYS AND TRUSTING WHAT GOD SAYS!

CONCL: Where do you find yourself in the story today?

- Lepers that is "stuck" and needs to move....step forward and trust God? Maybe time for you to Accept Christ
- Leper struggling to believe that NOT even God can help you. Believe you are too far away, too far gone, too sinful to be forgiven, have resisted too long that its too late.
- Don't be like the Kingsman...who HEARD...and did not BELIEVE: Trust...Step out...Move forward

I don't know what God is calling you to today...but I know this...If He is speaking...you know. Your next step is clear. The issue is clear...YOU have to make the decision to step out

Will you do that today? Come and Pray Come and kneel Come into the camp...get ALL you need

But don't stop there....If God has blessed you, and you have found Him...and everything you need: Think of others! Step out...and share with the world around you...They are dying for want of what you have

Today is a day of Good News!

Are you sharing what you have found? Or Are you keeping it...hiding it...Storing

Stand at the Door

By Sam Shoemaker (from the Oxford Group)

I stand by the door.
I neither go to far in, nor stay to far out.
The door is the most important door in the world -
It is the door through which men walk when they find God.
There is no use my going way inside and staying there,
When so many are still outside and they, as much as I,
Crave to know where the door is.
And all that so many ever find
Is only the wall where the door ought to be.
They creep along the wall like blind men,
With outstretched, groping hands,
Feeling for a door, knowing there must be a door,
Yet they never find it.
So I stand by the door.

The most tremendous thing in the world
Is for men to find that door - the door to God.
The most important thing that any man can do
Is to take hold of one of those blind, groping hands
And put it on the latch - the latch that only clicks
And opens to the man's own touch.

Men die outside the door, as starving beggars die
On cold nights in cruel cities in the dead of winter.
Die for want of what is within their grasp.
They live on the other side of it - live because they have not found it.

Nothing else matters compared to helping them find it,
And open it, and walk in, and find Him.
So I stand by the door.