

## A PARABLE OF THE FOUR LEPERS

2 Kings 7:1-20

By way of encouragement, we trust that this glimpse of an O.T. parable in the spirit will encourage one not to 'fight' (it is also called arguing!) when you find yourself 'outside the box' as regard to Christian fellowship. We shall look at this allegory through today's window when many folk are spiritually starving in the confines of their camp. These four lepers dared to believe differently to the expected views of their fellowship. *'Don't go near them ... keep your distance'* the members were instructed. These ostracized believers had been pushed 'outside the box' (the comfort-zone) of normal stagnant unbelieving believers.

To tune into this picture, I invite you to see that the Camp of Israel equates with the traditional Church bound to their restrictive constitution filled with letter-word statements. The king is the senior pastor or leader and there is also the sceptical assistant pastor who doesn't relate to any word which comes by the Spirit. God spoke a judgment on such ... you will see new life but not partake of it. Have you noticed that those who are critical of change never seem to grow?

The camp of the Syrians speaks of the un-churched world and those that seek after God without going to Church ... some of the 'all' that God is all in! The Church-System is extremely fearful of anything that cannot have a literal chapter and verse added to it to 'prove' it is of the Lord.

### A NEW DAY IS BEFORE US

Twilight relates to the beginning of a new day for the Hebrew day began at 6.00 pm. The scene is set ... God is opening up to the hungry a new day of insights in progressively unveiling just who our Father really is and who He says we are (without any 'buts'!). These revelations touch on the scriptures, science, history and timings. The tents of the enemy represent different beliefs of folk and among the good and the bad, there are many nuggets of truth seen here in this parable as silver, gold and garments plus bread. (At the end of John's gospel, it mentions that Jesus said and did oceans more teaching and activity than was recorded in the bible). Truly hungry folks are looking for truth and reality: You will know them for they are teachable having no fear for they are trusting fully in the Lord. *Their times are in His hand* (Ps. 31:15).

### THE LORD IS IN FULL COMMAND

God turns up the pressure especially for these four outcasts to the point that they abandon their lives into the hands of the Lord God. *To die is gain*. Meanwhile God had sovereignly moved to cause the so-called enemy to be gone. These four trailblazers tiptoed towards the enemy camp shaking off the brain-washings of fear only to discover that there was no enemy! They went into the camp of those that thought differently to the normal. They found, to their surprise, evidences of the salvation message (silver) and expressions of Father-God's nature (gold) as well as fresh coverings of the Spirit plus sustenance to meet their inward longings. There was 'words' that had had all the husks of traditional letter-word understandings removed (fine flour) plus new horizons in the 'word' that needed to be hulled (meditated upon). There was barley in plenty.

They are delighted and start to store up the goodies for themselves hiding the 'new word' (new

revelation) within themselves. Why on earth was anyone scared of these insights? What delight these four had and then they felt, because of the indwelling Spirit, that it wasn't right to keep this good news to themselves... it was so full of life that others needed to have access to it. These four submitted one to the other.

### **GOSSIP THIS GOSPEL**

They returned to the Church and told the deacon at the gate what they had discovered. He in turn passed the news through to the king. They had learned a truth ... share what has blessed you and then leave the rest to the Lord!!! The traditional leader is somewhat sceptical especially in the middle of the night having been awakened from his sleepy situation. A member suggests that he send five horses and go and see for himself ... move by grace (5). Now that's a challenge!!! He was enabled to respond with two horses to get a witness (2) on the situation.

The prophetic word said that barley would also be available that day. Barley relates to the first part of the harvest ... so here it would attract the 'first-fruits company' of overcomers. Those who knew (not just hoped for) that there was more and that they had a personal inside push to go for it. These overcomers would have overcome all fear, peoples' opinions and selfish desires.

### **AVOID ANY ARGUMENT**

The thoughtfulness of these four who were ostracized from the 'norm' was prompted by the Spirit and was the means of bringing relief to the church folk (except the sceptical) and seeing them fed after so long a time of hunger.

If you find the Lord leading you in a new way, have no fear for He will never leave you and the blessings you receive will rub off on the hungry folks around you. Remember, the Lord will not allow you to be swamped by false insights ... *If you ask for a fish, will He give you a serpent?* (Luke 11:11).