

**How to be a rescuer of lost souls?** Elisha had guided the people of Israel, by God's hand, away from a war with Syria (6:8-23), as well as in 2 Kings 5, Elisha had helped Naaman obey the Yahweh in healing of his leprosy. The text of 2 Kings 6:24-33 describes a severe famine in Samaria (V25) where a donkey head and dove dung was being sold for a significant sum. The king of Israel (likely Jehoram, son to Jezebel and Ahab) was walking on the wall (V26). The king is unrepentant for all that is occurring (V27). A woman has killed and eaten her son with another woman who relented and didn't kill and eat her child as agreed (V28-29). The king tore his clothes and was wearing sackcloth (a sign of self-affliction and sorrow) (V30). The king swears to kill Elisha by the end of the day (V31) not to repent and acknowledge his wickedness. Elisha is sitting in his house with the elders telling them a messenger was coming to kill him (V32-33). Elisha prophesies that the next day at about the same time, flour and barley will be cheap and plentiful (7:1).

**Three Ways to be Ready to Rescue Lost Souls:**

1. **Know God's Word:** 7:1, Elisha has heard from God and desires for the messenger to also hear the message that would bring salvation. But the servant of the king doesn't believe in God's power to deliver or provide (V2).

**Application:** Do we know Scriptures about the topics that are concerns for unbelievers in the world i.e., Evolution, marriage, homosexuality, suffering, trials, cheating, and hell.

**Application:** Can we engage others in these topics readily and in love?

2. **Believe God's Word:** 7:2, The messenger didn't believe the word of the prophet Elisha who had demonstrated that he was a true prophet of God in Israel. Believing compels belief in the precision and truth of Scripture. Scripture's accuracy and wisdom is unassailable. The king's messenger was told that he would see the flour and barley but not eat of it.

**Application:** Do I believe and demonstrate trust in the truth of God I have now? Do I exercise faith in what I know of God's word?

The story continues that the Lepers decide to go to the camp of the Syrians figuring if they stayed they would die, if they entered into the city they would die, and if the Syrians found out they were lepers they would likely die (V3-4). When the lepers arrive, the Syrian army has already fled (V5). The Lord had sent the noise of a great army and the Syrians left their horses, donkeys, and tents and fled (V6-7). The lepers know they should tell the people in Samaria that the Syrian army has left (V8-10) so they return and tell the gatekeepers what has happened.

3. **Share God's Word:** 7:10-11, the lepers gave the message to the gatekeeper and the king's house. The message was shared. God used lepers and unnamed messengers to spread what He had done in the camp of Syrians.

**Application:** Whether unbelievers believe the message or not, what God has said will come to pass. Sharing God's word to others is our obedient response to God's command. See also an example in Ezekiel 3:18-19.

The story continues in verse 7:16-20. As the people heard of the news, they left for the Syrian camp and trampled the king's messenger as Elisha had prophesied to him after the king had appointed him gatekeeper.

Romans 10:14 tells us that the lost need a preacher to proclaim the gospel to them so that they might hear and come to faith and receive God's gift of salvation.

## Further Discussion and Application

Can we adequately share truth from God's Word about the following topics? Give a few Scriptures or passages for each topic. Share and put down as many as you can and share with others. Feel free to select some of your own and share.

Evolution \_\_\_\_\_ Marriage \_\_\_\_\_

Homosexuality \_\_\_\_\_ Suffering \_\_\_\_\_

Trials \_\_\_\_\_ Cheating \_\_\_\_\_

Hell \_\_\_\_\_

When delivering the Gospel message to unbelievers, how can we present the message in love? If the Lord gives us multiple opportunities or one opportunity to share the Gospel, how can we present the message of grace and righteousness in Christ and the way to receive the forgiveness of sins?

Believing God's word will be put to the test as we walk in our Christian life. How will our faith be tested? How can we strengthen our faith? How would BTI stretch us in our knowledge and understanding of God's word? What new commitments can we make that will set our path towards knowing Scripture more and using that to disciple and mentor others towards Christlikeness? How is love and obedience for God shown in how we love the lost and we love our brothers and sisters in Christ?

How can we be confident that we are to deliver the message of salvation in Christ alone without respect to a positive response of faith and salvation? 1 Tim. 2:1-7 commands the believer to pray for those in authority. What is the hope of the those answered prayers? Why is God asking us to pray for unbelievers who show no signs of repentance or obedience in Christ? What changes in our hearts as a result of praying for those who desperately need Christ? How can we then love and relish the opportunities God gives us in our daily life to share and lead others to Christ?

Christians are to be hopeful (full of hope) and faithful (full of faith). What is our hope? What has our faith kept us from and saved us from? How can we share that with others? What are we going to tell them?