

Hoarding the Gospel

Why We Must Not Be SILENT



*“Finally, they said to each other, ‘This is not right. **This is a day of good news, and we aren’t sharing it with anyone!** If we wait until morning, some calamity will certainly fall upon us. Come on, let’s go back and tell the people at the palace.’” 2 Kings 7:9 NLT*

- If you had the only cure for a deadly disease, would you keep it to yourself or passionately tell everyone possible?

The people of Israel were starving to death. They were trapped within their city. They were cut off from all food supplies by a nation called the Arameans. Four lepers wandered into the camp of the Arameans and discovered that they had run away in fear. God caused them to hear the sounds of chariots and horses. The lepers discovered an abundant supply of food and clothing. It was a day of good news! Should they keep it to themselves or go back and report it to the city? Similarly, we live in a day of good news—the Good News of the Gospel. Should we keep it to ourselves or tell everyone everywhere?

Central Lesson

This is a day of Good News. We must pray, prepare, and present the Good News of the Gospel to a broken world.

1. The Good News was the message that God had done something miraculous to **SAVE** the people in the city (7:5-7).

“6 For the Lord had caused the Aramean army to hear the clatter of speeding chariots and the galloping of horses and the sounds of a great army approaching. ‘The king of Israel has hired the Hittites and Egyptians to attack us!’ they cried to one another. 7 So they panicked and ran into the night, abandoning their tents, horses, donkeys, and everything else, as they fled for their lives.”

God miraculously saved Israel from starvation, conquest, and enslavement. We, too, have a message of good news. Spiritually, God has miraculously provided for our salvation and rescue from the guilt, enslavement, and punishment of sin. Romans 5:8 *“But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.”* (NLT)

2. The Good News should **STIR** our hearts with a burden for the lost and a passion to share Jesus with them (7:8-9).

“8 When the men with leprosy arrived at the edge of the camp, they went into one tent after another, eating and drinking wine; and they carried off silver and gold and clothing and hid it. 9 Finally, they said to each other, ‘This is not right. This is a day of good news, and we aren’t sharing it with anyone! If we wait until morning, some calamity will certainly fall upon us. Come on, let’s go back and tell the people at the palace.’”

The lepers were concerned for the people in the city. They knew they would perish without their good news. They were compelled to tell the people. We, too, need to be concerned for the lost. We should be passionate about sharing the Good News of the Gospel. See—Acts 1:8, Matt. 28:19-20, Col. 4:2-6; 1 Peter 3:15-16.

3. Sharing the Good News requires **COURAGE** to tell others (7:3-7).

“4 We will starve if we stay here, but with the famine in the city, we will starve if we go back there. So we might as well go out and surrender to the Aramean army. If they let us live, so much the better. But if they kill us, we would have died anyway.”

The story of the four lepers begins with their willingness to die if necessary to find a solution to the famine. Their courage resulted in an amazing discovery—God had provided for them and everyone in the city.

*“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my **witnesses**, telling people about me everywhere....”* Acts 1:8 NLT
The Greek word “witness” in Acts 1:8 is the same word from which we get “martyr.” A witness is someone willing to die for the Gospel if necessary because it is a message that can change someone’s eternity.

4. People will often be **SKEPTICAL** when we share the Good news (7:12-15).

*“12 The king got out of bed in the middle of the night and told his officers, ‘I know what has happened. The Arameans know we are starving, so they have left their camp and have hidden in the fields. **They are expecting us to leave the city, and then they will take us alive and capture the city.**”*

The people were skeptical of the lepers when they shared the good news. The people needed time to investigate the truthfulness of their report. In the same way, people may be skeptical when we share the Good News of the Gospel. Be patient, pleasant, and supportive, and resource them with books, literature, CDs, podcasts, etc., anything that will help answer their questions.

5. The good news **UNIFIES** everyone around a central God anointed mission and purpose (7:9).

“9 ...Come on, let’s go back and tell the people at the palace.”

The lepers were unified to go tell the people. When a church is focused on communicating the Good News of the Gospel, the church will be unified and will not have time for division, complaining, and discord.

6. People may **DISRESPECT** us, belittle us, or reject us, but they will perish unless we share the Good News with them (7:3).

“3 Now there were four men with leprosy sitting at the entrance of the city gates....”

The lepers were not allowed in the city. They had a disease that required them to be quarantined from society. The people shunned them, but they had the good news that the people desperately needed. Even if the world rejects and disrespects you, you have the good news they desperately need. Do not be intimidated if you feel inadequate or inferior. You have the good news that has the power to rescue them from the guilt, enslavement, and penalty of sin. Paul said in Romans 1:16, *“For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is **the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes....**”*

Central Lesson

This is a day of Good News. We must pray, prepare, and present the Good News of the Gospel to a broken world.

► Accept Christ as your Savior. ► As a Christian, dedicate your life to Christ. ► Invite someone to next Sunday’s study. ► Attend a small group. ► Read the Bible & journal meaningful verses. ► Pray for friends that need Jesus.