



Despair and Deliverance Part 2

“Why Stay Here Until We Die?”

2 Kings 7:1-4

Introduction

Sometimes either by our own actions or no fault of our own life comes crashing down around us and leads us to despair.

Despair— The complete loss or absence of hope. To experience grave concern or anxiety. To feel or display deep distress.

2 Kings 6-7 is a true and powerful story of Despair and Deliverance.

The Inhabitants of the city of Samaria were in great despair!

Words of wisdom to remember in times of Despair.

In times of Despair:

Do not be Foolish

Do not become Angry or Bitter

Do not be Afraid

Be Patient

Pay attention to the Word of the LORD

Do not be a Debby Downer or listen to Debby Downers

God has the power to do great things in our life and in our world but it WILL NOT COME TO PASS in the life of those who doubt!

Scripture

Elisha replied, “Hear the word of the Lord! This is what the Lord says: ‘About this time tomorrow at Samaria’s gate, six quarts of fine flour will sell for a half ounce of silver and twelve quarts of barley will sell for a half ounce of silver.’ ”

² Then the captain, the king’s right-hand man, responded to the man of God, “Look, even if the Lord were to make windows in heaven, could this really happen?” Elisha announced, “You will in fact see it with your own eyes, but you won’t eat any of it.”

³ Now four men with a skin disease were at the entrance to the city gate. They said to each other, “**Why stay here until we die?**

⁴ If we say, ‘Let’s go into the city,’ we will die there because the famine is in the city, but if we sit here, we will also die. So now, come on. Let’s surrender to the Arameans’ camp. If they let us live, we will live; if they kill us, we will die.” CSB

Quote Of The Day

“How different, if one waits for God's own time and looks to Him for help and deliverance! When at last help comes, after many hours of prayer and after much faith and patience, how sweet it is! What a reward the soul receives for trusting in God and waiting patiently for His deliverance! If you have never walked in this path of obedience before, do so now. You will experience the sweetness of the joy that faith brings.” — George Muller

Now let’s talk about deliverance.

Deliverance— the action of being rescued or set free.

Words to wisdom to remember when we are seeking Deliverance:

When seeking Deliverance:

1. Hear, Believe and Obey the Word of the LORD 2 Kings 7:1

Elisha replied, “**Hear the word of the Lord!** This is what the Lord says: ‘About this time tomorrow at Samaria’s gate, six quarts of fine flour will sell for a half ounce of silver and twelve quarts of barley will sell for a half ounce of silver.’” CSB

The word translated “**Hear**” comes from the Hebrew word “**Shema**” meaning to hear, to listen, to comprehend completely.

The “**Shema**” is a traditional Jewish declaration of faith found in the Old Testament in **Deuteronomy 6:4-6** “Listen, Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. ⁵**Love the Lord your God** with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. ⁶These words that I am giving you today are to be in your heart. ⁷**Repeat them** to your children. **Talk about them** when you sit in your house and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. ⁸**Bind them as a sign** on your hand and let them be a symbol on your forehead. ⁹**Write them** on the doorposts of your house and on your city gates.” CSB

The living God is our only hope, He is the God who can deliver when we are in despair.

Psalm 119:105 “Your word is a lamp for my feet and a light on my path. CSB

Psalm 119:160 “The entirety of your word is truth, each of your righteous judgments endures forever.” CSB

Hear, Believe, and Obey the Word of God and see what God will do!

These words are from a powerful praise song we used to sing years ago but the truth remains today— “**Trust and never doubt, God will surely bring you out, He’s never failed me yet.**”

When seeking Deliverance:

2. Deliverance requires action vv.3-4

Now four men with a skin disease were at the entrance to the city gate. They said to each other, **“Why just sit here until we die?”** ⁴ If we say, ‘Let’s go into the city,’ we will die there because the famine is in the city, but if we sit here, we will also die. So now, come on. Let’s surrender to the Arameans’ camp. If they let us live, we will live; if they kill us, we will die.”
CSB

If we are going to experience Deliverance from our Despair the four lepers in this story show us what it takes to experience Deliverance.

The four lepers were in Deep Despair:

They were Diseased, they were Dying, their lives were Dismal and it seemed there was no hope. However, these four lepers show us what it takes to experience deliverance in our lives.

Four principles that lead to Deliverance:

A. Nothing Changes if Nothing Changes v.3

Why stay here until we die?

Four principles that lead to Deliverance:

B. Face the facts v.4a

If we say, ‘Let’s go into the city,’ we will die there because the famine is in the city, but if we sit here, we will also die.

Four principles that lead to Deliverance:

C. Confront fear and move forward by faith v.4b

So now, come on. Let's surrender to the Arameans' camp.

Four principles that lead to Deliverance:

D. The reward must be greater than the risk v.4c

If they let us live, we will live; if they kill us, we will die."

What does deliverance in our life look like?

Am I willing to risk where I am and what I am experiencing to pursue something greater, knowing it could possibly make things worse?

Sometimes deliverance is not what we think it is!

In the mid 1800's the finest hospitals lost one out of six young mothers to the scourge of "childbed fever." A doctor's daily routine began in the dissecting room where they performed autopsies. From there doctors made their way to the hospital to examine expectant mothers without ever pausing to wash their hands. Dr. Semmelweis was the first doctor in history to associate such examinations with the resultant infection and death. His own practice was to wash with a chlorine solution, and after eleven years and the delivery of 8,537 babies, he lost only 184 mothers--about one in fifty.

He became so committed to this cause that he passionately lectured and debated with his colleagues. He argued, "**Child Bed Fever is caused by decomposed material, conveyed to a wound. . . I have shown how it can be prevented. I have proven all that I have said. But while we talk ,talk, talk, women are dying. I am not asking anything world shaking. I am asking you only to wash...For God's sake, wash your hands.**"

Despite various publications of results where hand-sanitizing reduced mortality rates below 1%, Dr. Semmelweis's observations conflicted with the established scientific and medical opinions of the time, and his ideas

were rejected by the medical community. Some doctors were offended at the suggestion that they should sanitize their hands.

In his lifetime Dr. Semmelweis was not appreciated or respected. In 1865, Dr. Semmelweis was committed to an insane asylum, where he died at age 47 after being beaten by the guards, only 14 days after he was committed.

Years after his death the hand washing theory of Dr. Semmelweis's gained widespread acceptance. Louis Pasteur confirmed the germ theory and Joseph Lister, acting on Pasteur's research, practiced and operated, using hygienic methods, with great success.

Dr. Semmelweis died insane at the age of 47, his wash basins discarded, his colleagues laughing in his face, and the death rattle of a thousand women ringing in his ears.

Dr. Ignaz Philipp Semmelweis changed the world forever because he was willing to risk his life and well being for something greater.

Sometimes deliverance is greater than our life and well being.

Another example of the reward being greater than the risk is Jesus. Jesus endured the shame and suffering of the cross to deliver humanity from the despair and death of sin.

When seeking Deliverance:

3. God has the power to deliver us vv.5-7

So the diseased men got up at twilight to go to the Arameans' camp. When they came to the camp's edge, they discovered that no one was there, ⁶for the Lord had caused the Aramean camp to hear the sound of chariots, horses, and a large army. The Arameans had said to each other, "The king of Israel must have hired the kings of the Hittites and the kings of Egypt to attack us." ⁷So they had gotten up and fled at twilight, abandoning their tents, horses, and donkeys. The camp was intact, and they had fled for their lives. CSB

Isaiah 59:1 Indeed, the Lord's arm is not too weak to save, and his ear is not too deaf to hear. CSB

When seeking Deliverance:

4. Recognize God's Blessing v.8

When these diseased men came to the edge of the camp, they went into a tent to eat and drink. Then they picked up the silver, gold, and clothing and went off and hid them. They came back and entered another tent, picked things up, and hid them. CSB

We should make it a practice to recognize God's blessings!

James 1:17 "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights who does not change like shifting shadows." CSB

In times of despair when we are looking for deliverance it is good to recognize the blessings of God.

When seeking Deliverance:

5. Receive God's Blessing v.8

When these diseased men came to the edge of the camp, they went into a tent to eat and drink. **Then they picked up the silver, gold, and clothing and went off and hid them. They came back and entered another tent, picked things up, and hid them.** CSB

When seeking Deliverance:

6. Enjoy God's Blessing v.8

When these diseased men came to the edge of the camp, **they went into a tent to eat and drink.** Then they picked up the silver, gold, and clothing and went off and hid them. They came back and entered another tent, picked things up, and hid them. CSB

It is good to enjoy God's blessing! God blessed their faith to move forward and He gave them food and drink to enjoy!

When seeking Deliverance:

7. Share God's Blessing vv.9-10

Then they said to each other, "We're not doing what is right. Today is a day of good news. **If we are silent and wait until morning light, our punishment will catch up with us. So let's go tell the king's household.**" ¹⁰ The diseased men came and called to the city's gatekeepers and told them, "We went to the Aramean camp and no one was there—no human sounds. There was nothing but tethered horses and donkeys, and the tents were intact." ¹¹ The gatekeepers called out, and the news was reported to the king's household. CSB

When seeking Deliverance:

8. Do not let the dread of fear overcome the deliverance of faith v.12

So the king got up in the night and said to his servants, "Let me tell you what the Arameans have done to us. They know we are starving, so they have left the camp to hide in the open country, thinking, 'When they come out of the city, we will take them alive and go into the city.'" CSB

Fear causes us to assume the worst possible scenario!

Illustration— Fear of the Big Doghouse

Faith gives us the expectation that God will deliver us!

When seeking Deliverance:

9. Faith makes a way when there is no way vv.14-16

The messengers took two chariots with horses, and the king sent them after the Aramean army, saying, “Go and see.”¹⁵ So they followed them as far as the Jordan. They saw that the whole way was littered with clothes and equipment the Arameans had thrown off in their haste. The messengers returned and told the king.¹⁶ Then the people went out and plundered the Aramean camp. It was then that six quarts of fine flour sold for a half ounce of silver and twelve quarts of barley sold for a half ounce of silver, according to the word of the Lord. CSB

When there seems to be no way: Our God is a Waymaker!

Remember this— Nothing is too hard for God.

When seeking Deliverance:

10. Doubters do not experience deliverance 2 Kings 7:16-20

What happened to the King’s right hand man?

2 Kings 7:16-20 Then the people went out and plundered the Aramean camp. It was then that six quarts of fine flour sold for a half ounce of silver and twelve quarts of barley sold for a half ounce of silver, according to the word of the Lord.¹⁷ The king had appointed the captain, his right-hand man, to be in charge of the city gate, but the people trampled him in the gate. He died, just as the man of God had predicted when the king had come to him.¹⁸ When the man of God had said to the king, “About this time tomorrow twelve quarts of barley will sell for a half ounce of silver and six quarts of fine flour will sell for a half ounce of silver at Samaria’s gate,”¹⁹ this captain had answered the man of God, “Look, even if the Lord were to make windows in heaven, could this really happen?” Elisha had said, “You will in fact see it with your own eyes, but you won’t eat any of it.”²⁰ This is what happened to him: the people trampled him in the city gate, and he died. CSB

Deliverance— the action of being rescued or set free.

When seeking Deliverance:

Hear, Believe and Obey the Word of the LORD

Deliverance requires action

God has the power to deliver us

Recognize God's Blessing

Receive God's Blessing

Enjoy God's Blessing

Share God's Blessing

Do not let the dread of fear overcome the deliverance of faith

Faith makes a way when there is no way

Doubters do not experience deliverance