

MIRACULOUS DELIVERANCE FROM THE SYRIAN ARMY

2 Kings 7:1-20

I. **THE SIN OF UNBELIEF** (2;)—*the king's right hand man*

Not believing the word of the LORD, not trusting the character of God.

A. **A Personal Hardness of Heart** (Heb 3:12-13)—disrespect and contempt

B. **The Responsibility of Leadership** (Mat 23:13)

1. **Public Position** (1 Sam 2:30)—*publicly undercut the Word of the Lord.*

2. **Personal Influence** (Act 13:6-12)—*the people in our spheres of influence*

C. **The Need for Holy Self-Awareness** (Ps 73:15)

1. **Aware of God**—*the Fear of God* (God is real, relevant, present)

2. **Aware of Others**—*of what they need and how we are affecting them*

3. **Aware of Our Influence**—for good or for evil, to encourage or to discourage

II. **THE POWER OF FEAR** (6-7, 15)—*the routing of the Syrian army*

Unreasonable versus reasonable

A. **Godly Fear** (Luke 12:5)—God is bigger, stronger, more real than anyone or anything else. Don't need to fear anything else!

B. **Ungodly Fear** (Lev 26:36; Prov 28:1)—comes from not knowing or being in right relationship with God

1. **Fear of an uneasy conscience** (1 Jn 4:18)—*discovery and judgment*

2. **Fear of being overpowered** by enemies or **crushed** by the difficulties of life. (Ps 27:1-3, 5; 56:11)

3. **Fear of death** (Prov 14:32; Heb 2:15)—without the assurance of resurrection and eternal life

C. **The Sound of God's Army** (6)—*impending judgment*

1. Causes **mortal terror** to the enemies of God

2. Reveals the **worthlessness** of worldly things in the day of judgment (Ps 49:16-17; Prov 11:4, 7; 13:22)

III. **THE BEARERS OF GOOD NEWS** (3-11)—*the lepers and social outcasts (us!)*

A. **Realistic Appraisal of the Situation** (4)—nothing to lose, going to die anyway

1. **Recognizing Our Misery**—idols not delivering the joy and satisfaction

2. **Facing Our Mortality**—we are all going to die!

3. **Considering Our Prospects**—the world has nothing to offer us

B. **Acting in Humility** (4; Isa 55:1-2; Jn 6:35, 37; Jas 4:6)—doing something about it; seeking mercy

C. **Compelled to Share** (9; Isa 40:1-2, 9)—evangelism, sharing the good news; one beggar telling another beggar where to find bread

1. **Concern for others** (Gen 4:9; Phil 2:4)—social conscience

2. **Too good to keep to ourselves**