**Bible/College Class Notes – Studies in 1 and 2 Kings –**

**Lesson 125**

**Sin and its Cure**

**This week – We see again that unbelief in God’s promises is both very sinful and very foolish.**

**NOTES**

**AIM - To learn from this Old Testament historical event that unbelief in God's promises is both sinful and very foolish.**

**Let us be convinced that the Lord has great storehouses of blessings available and promises**

**them to all who take His Word seriously.** **VA**

**Refusing To Believe God’s Promises.**

**Starvation in Samaria. VA Heading and Picture**

**Ben-Hadad was the King of Syria.**

**The Syrian army attacked Israel again.** Besieging the walled city of Samaria,

not allowing anyone, or anything, in or out.

This led to the starvation of the people. **2 Kings 6 v24-30**.

**The Syrian army would wait for the people to surrender.**

**With little or no food they would grow very weak**

**and not be able to fight.**

**Then the enemy would storm the city to kill the people and take everything of value.**

**Only the rich could buy food, but it was food that beggars would normally refuse.**

**Even the King wore sackcloth in despair.**

**There are many instances of people starving**

around the world. **Mostly due to war.**

**Sadly,** you will have seen harrowing pictures of children caught up in this. **VA Picture**

**Let us be grateful that we are not starving like these.**

**We should be concerned about those**

**who are less fortunate than us.**

**Do we thank the Lord for all our comforts?**

**2**

**Let us note the similarities between our society**

**and the starving people of Samaria.**

**Starvation of the Soul. VA**

**Spiritually, our souls live in a starvation zone**, where we experience great hunger, with a lack of meaning to life - **without purpose, or satisfying fulfilment.**

**Many desperately crave satisfaction from**

alcohol, drugs, evil practices and sinful pleasures.

**Some strive to work long hours**

to earn a lot of money to buy a life-style –

Expensive home, car, holidays and pleasure.

But none of these bring real, lasting, satisfaction.

**No peace or lasting joy.**

Children are often starved of affection and attention

as their parents chase their own happiness.

**Spiritual Riches Discovered.**

**We are spiritual beings,**

**we have eternal souls that need spiritual food.**

**As recorded in John 6 The Lord Jesus said 5 times that He is The Bread if Life. To feed our souls. John 6v35.**

**Jesus said unto them, “*I am the bread of life: he that cometh to Me shall never hunger;***

***and he that believeth on Me shall never thirst.” VA***

**Are you feeding on the Living Bread – Jesus Christ?**

**Good News Scorned**.

As the Syrian army set siege on Samaria,

Elisha, fully trusting God, said,

***“Tomorrow there would be abundant food for everyone.”***  **2 Kings 7v1**. **VA**

The King of Israel vented his rage on Elisha.

**One unbelieving leader**, a Kings Officer, ridiculed Elisha.

***“Behold, if the Lord would make windows in heaven, might this thing be?***  **VA** v2.

**3**

**Elisha,** “***Behold, thou shalt see it with thine eyes, but shalt not eat thereof.” v2*. VA**

**Good News Doubted By Us?**

Every week we offer you eternal blessings –

**Of the kindness and mercy of God,**

of sins forgiven, inward peace with God,

joy in this life and Heaven to come.

**But how do you treat God’s kind promises?**

Do you listen with deaf ears?

Giving no credibility to God’s messengers and message.

**Is it with open contempt and ridicule?**

**Plentiful Food Missed.**

**God intervened.**

As night closed in, God sent the noise of an advancing army, and the Syrians fled, leaving all their food and possessions behind.

Silver, gold, rich raiment, and food.

**Flour and Barley** - **VA Picture**

**But no one ventured out of Samaria to check.**

**They had not believed Elisha.**

**They remained in Samaria – dying of starvation.**

**They remained hungry but could be feasting.**

**They were shivering but could be clothed.**

**They thought the siege was still on**

**when it had, in fact, ended.**

**All because they refused to accept and believe**

**God’s message through the Prophet Elisha.**

**Heaven Missed By Us.**

Many today refuse to hear the message of forgiveness offered by God. The Gospel Call to repentance.

How like the Israelites we can be, preferring to hear any message, **except the Gospel of Saving Grace.**

**4**

**Many today just listen to Godless Leaders**

**accepting a miserable existence without God.**

**Four Lepers Make A Surprising Discovery.**

**As outcasts they sat at the gate of Samaria**

**begging without success.**

**The lepers said to one another, “*Why sit we here and die? … Let us fall (go) unto the host of Syria.” 2 Kings 7vs3,4. VA***

They approached the Syrian camp hoping for food.

They reasoned that if they did nothing they would die.

By going into the Syrian Camp they might be killed

but that was a chance they were prepared to accept.

**We should not be afraid to approach God**

**if we come humbly, seeking His forgiveness.**

**Food Discovered.**

To their surprise and amazement,

the Lepers found the Syrian camp deserted,

They found food and treasure –

**all wonderfully provided by the LORD.**

**Spiritual Riches Discovered.**

**Only The LORD can satisfy the longing of our souls** by bringing us to repentance and faith in Jesus Christ.

**Will you search for it in sincere, faithful, prayer?**

**Have you run out of confidence and optimism in thinking how great your lives will be without God?**

**Are you being moved to look to the Lord**

**for your only source of help. John 14v6.**

**The Lord Jesus said, *“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man cometh unto the father but by Me.”***

**Salvation from the Lord is free.**

**The Lepers Tell The Good News**

to The People of Samaria.

**At first the Lepers helped themselves.**

**Then they thought of the others starving in Samaria.**

**5**

***“Come. Let us tell the kings household.”* VA**

It was just as Elisha had said,

***“Tomorrow there will be abundant food.”*** **2 Kings 7v1.**

King Joram still had a heart of unbelief and fear,

yet he sent spies out to check.

The people of Samaria rushed out to gather the food,

raiment, silver and gold.

**Christians Must Tell The Good News To Others.**

If you know the Lord Jesus as your Saviour,

and have experienced His wonderful goodness yourself then you have a duty to tell others and will gladly do so.

**I came to know the Lord Jesus as my Saviour when I was 13. I was convicted of my sin and repented.**

**I now gladly share with you the wonderful Gospel**

**of the Lord Jesus Christ that you may be saved.**

**Amazingly, this blessing is freely available to you.**

**Unbelief Brings Death. A word of warning.**

Just as Elisha said,

***“Thou shalt see it with thine eyes, but not eat thereof.”*** v2.

The man who ridiculed Elisha was trampled to death.

**What will we do with the Lord’s offer of peace?**

Don’t delay until Judgement Day.

***Now is the Day of Salvation.***

Acknowledge Him as your Sovereign Lord and Saviour.

**Paul wrote about**Abraham’s faith***,* VA**

***“He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; And being fully persuaded that, what He had promised, He was able also to perform.”***  ***Romans 4v20-21.***

**6**

**Important Question for us Today.**

**Why do we reject God when it is obvious that He is the only source of eternal happiness and peace?**

**Adam and Eve, at Creation,** experienced and knew perfectly that all good came only from God,

yet they wilfully chose to reject Him.

**In pride and unbelief,** they refused to let God rule over them, thinking they could live as well, if not better, without Him and still be happy.

**But,** instead of them being free to rule their lives, eternal peace was lost and they, and their descendants (us included) had the rule of God replaced by the rule of sin, self-will, death, and judgement.

**Sin became more alluring than obedience to God**

even though its’ pleasures are short lived,

resulting in emptiness and soul thirsting.

We have become totally incapable of desiring the return of God’s rule by our own will and are lost……

**Naturally, we are spiritually dead towards God.**

**Yet in mercy God has made a way** through the Lord Jesus Christ whereby we sinners can be restored.

**See Ezekiel 36v26-28. The Lord will give to those who ask a new heart - which can repent and believe. VA**

***“A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.***

***27And I will put My spirit within you, and cause you to walk in My statutes, and ye shall keep My judgments, and do them.***

***28And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be My people, and I will be your God.***