

“Dismantling Our Comfort Seat”
(Turnpike Wesleyan – June 6, 2021)

Scripture Text: II Kings 7:3-15

Now there were four men with leprosy at the entrance of the city gate. They said to each other, “Why stay here until we die? If we say, ‘We’ll go into the city, the famine is there, and we will die.’ And if we stay here, we will die. So let’s go over to the camp of the Arameans and surrender. If they spare us, we live; if they kill us, then we die.” At dusk they got up and went to the camp of the Arameans. When they reached the edge of the camp, not a man was there, for the Lord had caused the Arameans to hear the sound of chariots and horses and a great army, so that they said to one another, “Look, the king of Israel has hired the Hittite and Egyptian kings to attack us!” So they got up and fled in the dusk and abandoned their tents and their horses and donkeys. They left the camp as it was and ran for their lives. The men who had leprosy reached the edge of the camp and entered one of the tents. They ate and drank, and carried away silver, gold and clothes, and went off and hid them. They returned and entered another tent and took some things from it and hid them also. Then they said to each other, “We’re not doing right. This is a day of good news and we are keeping it to ourselves. If we wait until daylight, punishment will overtake us. Let’s go at once and report this to the royal palace.” So they went and called out to the city gatekeepers and told them, “We went into the Aramean camp and not a man was there - not a sound of anyone - only tethered horses and donkeys, and the tents left just as they were.” The gatekeepers shouted the news, and it was reported within the palace. The king got up in the night and said to his officers, “I will tell you what the Arameans have done to us. They know we are starving; so they have left the camp to hide in the countryside, thinking, ‘They will surely come out, and then we will take them alive and get into the city.’” One of his officers answered, “Have some men take five of the horses that are left in the city. Their plight will be like that of all the Israelites left here - yes, they will only be like all these Israelites who are doomed. So let us send them to find out what happened.” So they selected two chariots with their horses, and the king sent them after the Aramean army. He commanded the drivers, “Go and find out what has happened.” They followed them as far as the Jordan, and they found the whole road strewn with the clothing and equipment the Arameans had thrown away in their headlong flight. So, the messengers returned and reported to the king.

Introduction

As we come to today's text, I believe God is revealing to us exactly what He is looking for in the heart of Turnpike Wesleyan and the answer comes in the form of a **question**, a **statement** and an **observation**.

Lepers' Question: "Why are we just sitting here?" (V.3)

That is a very powerful question for the church today! God is looking for **people**, for **pastors**, for **congregations** who will ask this same question: "Why are we just sitting here?"

"What can **I** do?" needs to be our heart's cry.

The Lepers' Statement: "We are not doing right?" (V.9)

Look carefully at their newfound situation - food, material goods, riches beyond anyone's wildest imagination and it does not matter that they are diseased, in rags and outcasts (message: Jesus **accepts** us as we are).

But now note the new position ... not sitting in their chair but kneeling in **repentance** before the Lord! Oh, how you and I need to exclaim like the lepers; "We are not doing right."

In the time of one's personal famine, when the enemy is camped about to literally cut off the lifeline; we should be the bearers of good news ... Jesus is the **answer!**

People, we were saved not to sit but to serve - and we cannot share God's **promises** if we are content to sit on our **premises!**

Finally, The Lepers' Observation (VV.5-7).

Read carefully verses 5-7. Did you catch anything interesting? The Syrians fled at the precise **moment** the lepers moved! **Timing** is everything.

Share illustration of stepfather's salvation.

When God's Spirit impresses your heart, **move**. The timing is absolutely right. When God's Spirit impresses you to share your faith - open your **mouth** and share!

Wrap Up

Are you ready to business with God today?

If so, the timing is right.

If you desire to serve God on a higher plane, and want to dismantle your comfort **seat**, then make a such a commitment right where you are as the hymn “On Higher Ground” is being played.