

# From Desperation to Deliverance

A Lord's Flock General Assembly Topic  
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Everyone all over the world today is facing distressing times with the onset of the pandemic. But in the midst of adversity, faith can easily turn our hopelessness and despair into liberation.

During the time of the prophet Elisha, a severe drought plagued the land. People were pushed beyond desperation to eat unclean food and resort to cannibalism. As the King was almost about to surrender to the enemy, Elisha prophesied that there would be plenty the following day. The king's official, however, did not believe (2 Kings 6:24 - 7:1-9).

## The Lessons from the Four Lepers

Four lepers lived outside the city wall. With famine raging, they could no longer live by begging.

### 1. Desperation drives us to risk action.

- They were in a desperate situation, and as soon as they recognized this, they were willing to risk everything (2 Kings 7:3).
- We are like the lepers, the condition of our hearts have been sickened by our sins. When we have trials like we do today, lack of action will lead us nowhere. A desperate man will surely find treasure.

### 2. Desperate times demand unity.

- They weighed-in on all options. Together, they agreed to risk going to the enemy camp to find provisions (2 Kings 7:4).
- We need to set aside pettiness and unite in faith.

### 3. Desperate times require desperate measures.

- More than ever, we need to seek God's wisdom and gain understanding. We need to pray like never before.

### 4. Desperation drives us to action.

- The lepers got up at sundown and crept towards the Aramean camp, and found no one there (2 Kings 7:5).
- Let us walk by faith, not by sight (2 Cor 5:7).

### 5. Desperate faith amazes God.

- While the lepers were approaching, the enemy heard chariots and a great army, and thought that they were under attack. They fled and abandoned their camp (2 Kings 7:6-7). Thus, the lepers found so much food and loot.
- God promised to answer and provide great things to those who call on Him (Jer 33:3).

### 6. Rewards produce a great responsibility to share the treasure.

- They felt obliged to share with their fellow Israelites. They returned to the city wall and reported everything to the gatekeeper (2 Kings 7:9). They became shepherds, who were able to feed the people.
- We have the responsibility to share the Good News of God's love, mercy and deliverance with others.

### 7. Be alert; Satan can make you doubt and despair.

- Upon hearing the news, the king thought that it was just a trap of the enemy (2 Kings 7:12).
- Let us choose to listen to encouraging and uplifting words, and avoid those who lead us to despair.

### 8. Expect no answer from God when you doubt.

- The officer who did not believe in Elijah's prophecy died in a stampede. He died without having a taste of their people's victory (2 Kings 7:19).

We are the lepers of the Church today, lost in sin and wretchedness. But we have been found by Jesus' most precious treasure of salvation. We are under obligation to share the Good News to others.

**Reflection:** Are you facing a desperate situation? Let your faith turn your desperation into deliverance.

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