

WEEK 27-28 SCRIPTURE READING

5778 / 2017-18



SHEMA שמע
(shem-ah)

A Hebrew word for “To listen intently with willing anticipation and readiness to do what is heard.”

Shema O Israel

by Roly Buys

*There is no copyright on this material. However, no part may be reproduced and/or presented for **personal** gain. All rights to this material are reserved to further the Kingdom of our LORD Jesus Christ **ONLY.***

For further information or to place an order, please contact us at:

Tel: +27 (0) 60 825 5780
Fax: +27 (0) 86 681 9458
E-mail: kanaan@iafrica.com
Website: www.kanaanministries.org

Office hours: Monday to Friday, 9 AM to 2 PM

Kanaan International Website

Website: www.eu.kanaanministries.org

Double Parashah Tazria - Metzora “she conceives - person afflicted with tzara’at”

Week 27-28

This week we read from the following portions:

Leviticus 12:1-15:33, 2 Kings 7:3-20, Luke 2:22-35 and Mark 1:35-45

SERVANT-LEADERSHIP

This series intends to look at the concept of Godly¹ leadership to identify the good, wise and wonderful attributes that we would do well to emulate.

I will “repeat” the description of what I believe Godly leadership ... “servant-leader” is all about, I that way you can benchmark the attributes of the character that I have selected to analyze for this week.

I submit that our actions, if they are restricted to only Bible study, or spirit worship, will not please the FATHER.

YHVH wants us to reveal His Kingdom to the world and make an impact ... our failure to be obedient to this task, means that YHVH's Glory is limited and the opportunity to present a meaningful alternative to the world model is lost.

OUR GOAL

1 Peter 4:10-11 “As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of GOD’s varied Grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of GOD; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that GOD supplies—in order that in everything GOD may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To Him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

This fact, therefore, implies that fathers will ROLE-MODEL the various behaviours / attitudes / values that are acceptable over an extended period of time.

When the child is very small, these examples must be presented as simply as possible.

Over time the same lesson will take on far more complicated scenarios and interplay with others.

Taking this forward in Biblical time means that the basic lessons must be in place, for all possible events, by the age of 13, when other peer groups will begin to implant THEIR VIEWS OF LIFE. When this happens, we need to have the Biblical BENCHMARK set firmly into our character.

¹ We use the Name **YHVH** instead of GOD, except where it appears in Scriptures.

Y'SHUA as Role Model

The prophet Isaiah speaks quite often about the coming Messiah - in many verses we find the reference to: "*My Servant ...*"

I will take those verses and inject them into each one of the attributes that are listed below

Firstly, that verse will validate the specific attribute.

Secondly that verse will give us the understanding that the behaviour defined, is in fact a extremely reachable target

(a) A father's role-model of Justice / healing

One of the fundamental building blocks of any human-being value system, is a sound understanding of the concept of *justice*.

Justice is not only the action to be fair in time of dispute, **but rather the principle never to do anything (business / sport / politics) that would give you an unfair advantage over others.**

This includes concepts such as:

- ◆ Paying a fair wage
- ◆ Opposing slavery
- ◆ Opposing abuse

Since many people have suffered abuse at the hands of others, and now carry wounds and hurts that preclude them from a normal healthily life, one of the leadership roles is to identify those hurt, **and to facilitate a process of healing.**



Once people have been made whole ... the servant-leader should go about the process of **identifying their YHVH-given gifts / talents.**

He should take steps to train people in their specific gifts, empower them to cover the weaknesses of those gifts and then ...

Release them into the appropriate position within the Body of Messiah where they can grow / flourish AND make a difference in other people's lives.

We will know that we cannot do things on our own. Even more surely, we are made for a very specific part of the Body of Messiah.

This implies that we can really only function in that place that we were made for.

Healing / satisfaction comes when I take responsibility for that work / action that is required of that part of the Body of Messiah.

Y'SHUA as Role Model (Isaiah 42:1)

(b) A father's role-model of Compassion / empathy

In a world where the best receive the glory and those last in line are all but forgotten, Biblical leaders should have the wherewithal to see the individual value and special abilities in a person.

Not only should he see these, but he should be focused on further development and training in these areas, and then he should be concerned with finding the right position for that individual to thrive

Such a leader will **value diverse opinion** ... he will **seek to hear alternative views, and he will not be putting people into stereotype boxes** - based on the fact that these people come from a different culture.

Not only will he be able to understand diverse views, but also he will be able to work in a community made up of strangers and still be able to reveal how YHVH expects us to love our neighbour.

Y'SHUA as Role Model (Isaiah 42:3)

(c) A father's role-model of Humility / trust / listening

- i) The first thing that you will realise of a leader, who is humble, is that books, articles and electronic media surround them. They are always searching for the truth and openly express the opinion that they welcome investigation into their thinking in order to test its credibility.

This principle of continuous learning is not only a wonderful means to remain humble; it's a prerequisite from YHVH (*Deuteronomy 17:19 / Joshua 1:8*).

- ii) The second attribute of a servant-leader who is humble, is the ability to create a **culture of TRUST**.

The modern world, with its performance-orientated goal creates a web of deceit and mistrust. Simple said, *how can I trust you with a secret or a better plan when both of us want to be recognised as the best in the team?*

Servant-leaders reject all forms of gossip, create opportunities for people with opposing views to face one another and debate the matter, and actively work to ensure transparency and sharing of all information.

- iii) A third attribute of servant leaders is that they are **good listeners**. They will seek clarity on what is said and felt.

They will be able to understand the fears/hopes and dreams of all concerned so that not one of the family / tribe is left behind (this does not mean that we agree with everything being said).



Y'SHUA, as Role Model (Isaiah 49:3)

(d) A father's role-model of emotional connectedness

One of the realities of this fast-paced world, is that we have all become so very busy. Not only do we have the opportunity to do many and diverse things / activities, we are also faced with the communication era of computers / smart phones / and software that connects people such as Facebook.

In this fast-paced world, its very easy not to be aware of the emotional status of some of your family and friends.

In one sense, it's wonderful not be see / be aware of any problems - simply because you don't have to worry about it.

But if you are a parent who is determined to follow their calling, **then you will want to be very tuned in to their fears / concerns / expectations and so on, so that you can react timeously and can offer the support needed.**

Once you are aware that a problem exists, then you can set in motion the action which can work towards a healing.

Importantly, these problems will manifest on many different levels ... it is not only spiritual .. it can also be physical and emotional...

For example:

- ◆ It can be a perceived weight problem for girls,
- ◆ It can be a poor muscle structure for a boy,
- ◆ It can be a lack of ball sense ...

In other words, it can be any thing that the world will use to judge and benchmark someone against as **unacceptable**.

One of the features of a great parent is the **ability to encourage** despite the circumstances – and note the words are: → “*let us ...*” ...and not “*you go and try on your own*”.

Fathers, who are emotionally connected, will strive to **delegate responsibility** to others in order to challenge them to grow.

Such Fathers will never be afraid to give up power, because they know that seeing others take up the challenge and succeed is far more significant than being successful at something yourself ... simply because you know that the feat can be multiplied dozens of times even when you are absent.

A Biblical example is Yitro telling Moses what you doing trying to keep the entire leadership role for your self → is NOT GOOD (**Exodus 18:14-17**).

Y'SHUA as Role Model (Isaiah 50:5)

(e) A father's role-model of revealing Godly influence

The world system speaks of a system of “command” and obey ... these days the world system tries to modify this by implying that consultation before decision making is an inclusive system.

In fact, this façade creates more unhappiness as people soon realise that there is a hidden agenda at play; the people can then become either:

- ◆ a group that is happy to be disengaged,
- ◆ or a group who is actively seeking to move on.

Influence is the ability to convince others of a need to change - either a burning platform or a common better goal.

Both David and Joshua best display this ability by getting TWELVE tribes of different thinking people to work together.

An influencer thinks of “**you**” ... not “**me**”

- ◆ This can only be true if you **truly believe in the people whom you lead**
- ◆ They may make mistakes that you have to correct
- ◆ They may disappoint you sometimes,
- ◆ BUT you know that they are mainly giving of their best.

Y'SHUA as Role Model (Isaiah 42:2)

(f) A father's role-model of releasing creativity

Innovation has become the name of the game.

People have dreams that are based on the exploits of others that have gone before them.

There was a time when – to run the mile in under 4 minutes was a huge feat. Today, new records get set at regular intervals.

Fathers are empowered to discern exactly what talents and gifts have been implanted in each child.

To develop those talents requires a concerted effort to plan, not only in the **timing** - how do we expose people to challenges, but also the **pace** at which we do so ... in this case its important to set stiff enough goals without discouraging the individual.

And YHVH knows what the best time is ... listen carefully to the Holy Spirit!! (**Numbers 27:16-17**)

Y'SHUA as Role Model (Isaiah 49:6)

(g) A father's role-model the art of Strategic planning

We live in a world that is constantly changing. Consider the fact that 100 years ago most people still used the horse or the donkey / camel, while today any trip of some distance can only be done in an airplane. Think about the concept of the old landline telephone and the new portable cell phone.

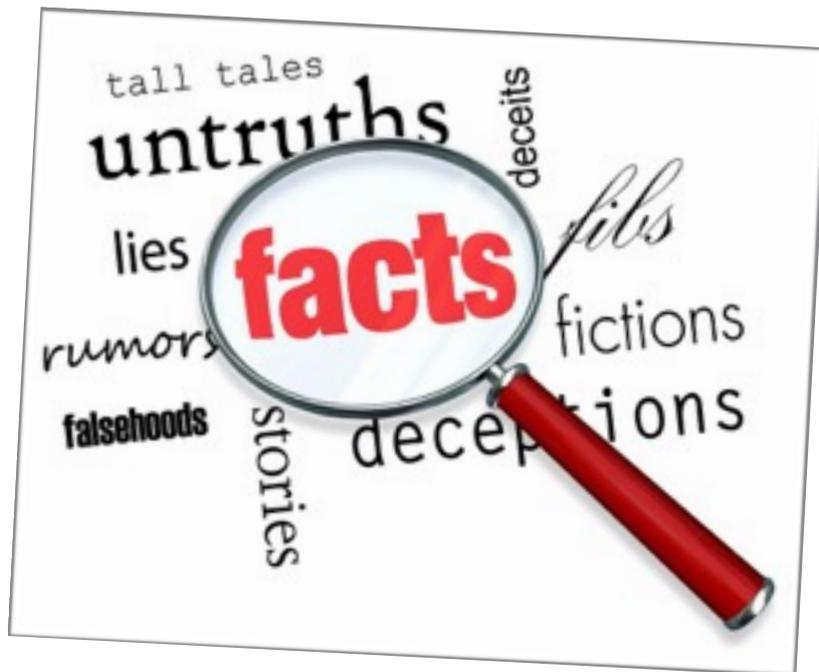
But more critically, is the change in the distribution and control of information.

Shops that sold books are now obsolete as people purchase these over the Internet.

You must be **prepared to investigate** strange things!!! (**Exodus 3:2-3**)

It's this type of change that can radically make or break a fantastic plan.

For this reason, fathers must teach children the art of scenario planning.



The ability to take note of changes in the environment, of new developments, of new evolving trends, and then commit this to a scenario plan to identify possible alternatives to be investigated.

A father who puts his child on a single track destination without this kind of training, is failing dismally in his leadership role as the likelihood of a dead-end, or a cliff without a bridge.

What do we want to do?

We need to empower the next generation to have the foresight to see various outcomes from a difficult situation and to be able to plan various alternative solutions so that they are not stuck.

What we need is to repeat the lessons of old - every single mistake or Biblical forefathers made, we need to help them identify the current realities for what they are – we need to take the Land (and not what we would want them to be), and we need to build an appreciation for estimating the cost / consequence of any action taken (as for me and my house we will serve the LORD).

We need to teach others to look up and around, while at the same time looking down at the job at hand (**Joshua 2:1**).

Y'SHUA as Role Model (Isaiah 49:2)

(h) A father's role-model of function of Stewardship

The Book of Genesis describes clearly ... we have been given a mandate – to **keep and guard** the Garden; to have dominion over the earth and all that is on it (but not on fellow humans), and we have to be accountable to YHVH for what we accomplish with this calling (**Genesis 1:28**).

Stewardship speaks to an understanding that we have a responsibility ... to leave the Garden in a better state than how we found it, that we have to build more than we utilise.

To this end, the perpetual use of farm land without rest is contrary to YHVH's Principles and the use of water without a care in the world reflects a belief that we can call on YHVH anytime that we like bring more rain ... that a undesirable level of arrogance **and** shows that we do not value the gift of the Garden. Nor the Giver of the gift!!!

It is within this domain that many of our most precious values are to be discovered.



Integrity

How many of us remember the day when, if two people shook hands on a deal, then it was irrevocable, and everybody understood that.

This concept is a fundamental building block of the principle of Covenant.

The bond of my word was enough to live or die by.

A similar thought is contained in the **salt covenant** idea, Once we had broken bread, together with salt, you as my guest are completely safe from all harm.

You simply cannot be a good steward if you do not have integrity.

Honesty

Honesty, as a value follows closely on that of integrity.

However, honesty includes the understanding that you will make right all possible damage / harm caused under your roof, even if no claim is laid.

Honesty includes the application of fairness, diligence, and justice.

A wonderful quote by RL Stevenson ...

“Don't judge each day by the harvest that you reap, but by the seeds that you plant,”

Y'SHUA as Role Model (Isaiah 42:4)

(i) A father's role-model of Community building / citizenship

The world has created large corporations / huge companies that own a great deal of resource or governmental organisations that attempt to control mankind via their influence in the media and the minds of the masses.

The best structure from the Bible is the family; in a clan, in a tribe, and in a community.

Community come together for common purpose i.e. religion / welfare / celebrations; and sometimes to go to war when the group is under attack.

Within this context, the community either grows together or suffers together, and we do not get the huge differentials of wealth, health, etc, that we do today!

While leadership can be stressful and demanding ... (**Numbers 11:11-15**)

... the rewards are great when you see a community respond and start to function for themselves!

Y'SHUA as Role Model (Isaiah 50:6)

(j) A father's role-model of how to be leaving a legacy

The moment that you accept that:

- ◆ every individual is "equal and unique",
- ◆ that people should never be oppressed by anyone,
- ◆ that you realise that you are called to be accountable for your stewardship of the Garden,

... then you will believe in and work towards leaving a legacy.

- ◆ Legacy empowers OTHERS in your lifetime – legacy does not equal inheritance.
- ◆ Legacy is described in these strange words 'It's better to teach a man to fish than to feed him everyday'

But then you will understand that legacy equals hard work and sometimes, for a neighbour that does not even think or believe as you do ... we call that loving your neighbour.

Y'SHUA as Role Model (Isaiah 50:10,11)

LEADERSHIP IS NOT EASY

We see many examples of Biblical men who thought that they did not have what it takes:

- ◆ **Moses** → who am I?
- ◆ **Isaiah** → I am not a man of words!
- ◆ **Jeremiah** → I am a man of unclean lips!
- ◆ **Jonah** → I cannot speak!

The highest accolade → Moses is a servant ... **he is called YHVH's Servant.**

The Way Forward

The point of this short description is not to do an in depth study of Biblical leadership, but to define some of the Godly characteristics of such a role.

We will look at various individuals during this Torah cycle study.

I do not intend to discuss their shortcomings, but to focus on their GODLY Leadership qualities so that we can learn from these and start to emulate these attributes.

As such, I also do not intend to allocate their attributes under each of the heading described above, merely to reflect on their revealed lifestyle.

LET US RETURN TO THIS WEEK'S PORTION Tazria

In this week's Haftorah portion we find the character of **Naaman**.

- ◆ He is a gentile.
- ◆ In addition, he is the commander of an enemy's army, the Syrians.

The Bible tells us that this army had gone on raids into Israel and had taken some Israelites as slaves.

Since one such slave, a young girl, worked in Naaman's house, we can safely assume that he led some of these raids.

2 Kings 5:2 *"Now on one of their raids into Isra'el's territory, Aram carried away captive a little girl, who became a servant for Na'aman's wife."*

Now we are told that Naaman suffered from the condition, translated as "leprosy".

And now in the midst of this young girl's distress, working far from home ... as a slave in a pagan household, **she has compassion on this man**, and informs the family of the possibility / potential to obtain healing.

Does this action not reveal the Father's Heart of YHVH?

Actions such as these that will impact this world and will bring Him Glory.

2 Kings 5:3 She said to her mistress, "I wish my lord could go to the prophet in Shomron! He could heal his tzara'at."

Now Naaman is an oppressor of the children of Israel, and worships in the temple of Rimmon.

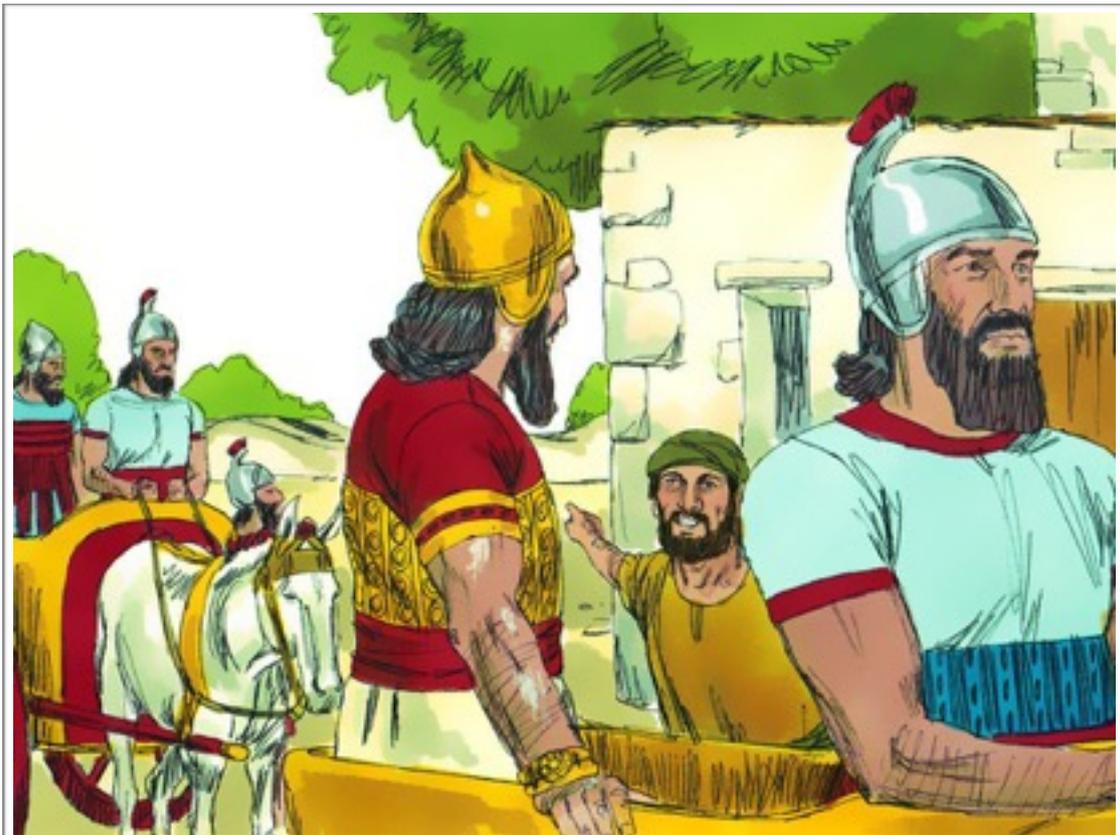
But we will see, nevertheless, that he still reveals a number of GODLY-leadership attributes.

A. Naaman reveals the attribute of STRATEGIC PLANNING

Naaman's battleground experience will come into full force. He understands the dimensions of space and time.

He knows that you need to have authority to enter into a **space** - for that reason he approaches his own king and gets the legitimate right to proceed.

Next he enters the domain of **time** by taking on this journey with urgency.



2 Kings 5:4-6 Na'aman went in and told his lord, "The girl from the land of Isra'el said such-and-such." The king of Aram said, "Go now, and I will send a letter to the king of Isra'el." He set out, taking with him 660 pounds of silver, 6,000 pieces of gold and ten changes of clothes. He brought the king of Isra'el the letter, which said, "When this letter reaches you, you will see that I have sent my servant Na'aman to you, so that you heal his tzara'at."

An interesting observation!!.

- ◆ He does not travel with an army
- ◆ He merely goes into Israel with his chariot and a few servants

However, because he carries the uniform of his position, and the authority of the king of Syria, this small army causes the king of Israel to become fearful and tremble.

2 Kings 5:7-8 When the king of Isra'el finished reading the letter, he tore his clothes. "Am I GOD, able to kill and make alive," he asked, "so that he sends me a man to heal of tzara'at? You can see that he is only seeking an excuse to quarrel with me." But when Elisha the man of GOD heard that the king of Isra'el had torn his clothes, he sent a message to the king: "Why did you tear your clothes? Just have him come to me, and he will know that there is a prophet in Isra'el."

B. Naaman reveals the attribute of HUMBLENESS

As an army commander, he would be a proud man ... a man used to giving orders and expecting them to be carried out - a man who would not be afraid of facing battles.

Such a man would be bound to have a huge ego, and especially since he did not serve YHVH, he would not necessarily have a set of values that we would want to see as norm.

I see however, two examples of humility:

1) He is prepared to listen to the advice of his servants.

- ◆ The prophet has spoken.
- ◆ The remedy seems abnormal / strange / and in a sense, degrading.
- ◆ He reacts in the flesh, but when the servants speak to him, he listens and does what he was asked to do.

2 Kings 5:13 -14 "But his servants approached him and said, "My father! If the prophet had asked you to do something really difficult, wouldn't you have done it? So, doesn't it make even more sense to do what he says, when it's only, 'Bathe, and be clean'?" So he went down and immersed himself seven times in the Yarden, as the man of GOD had said to do; and his skin was restored and became like the skin of a child; and he became clean.

- 2) He humbles himself and returns to the prophet to report the good news of the healing, acknowledges that YHVH is the One and Only GOD, declares his thankfulness, and offers to bring a type of thanksgiving offering,

2 Kings 5:15 *Then, with his whole retinue, he returned to the man of GOD, went and stood before him, and said, "Well, I've learned that there is no god in all the earth except in Isra'el; therefore, please accept a present from your servant."*

C. Naaman reveals the attribute of STEWARDSHIP

- ◆ He has been given a gift by the king of Syria to bring as an offering.
- ◆ Since he has been healed, he is quick to show his gratitude, and to make the offering

2 Kings 5:15 (b) *... "therefore, please accept a present from your servant."*

D. Naaman reveals the attribute of LEGACY

- ◆ Naaman understands that it is the GOD of Israel, YHVH, who has healed him.
- ◆ He makes a commitment never to serve pagan gods again.

However, he knows, as the commander of the Syrian army, he will have to accompany his king into the temple of Rimmon.

- ◆ He asks that YHVH will pardon him, and
- ◆ says if this happens, he promises that he will personally never bring any offerings or sacrifices to any god, but to the GOD of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

2 Kings 5:17-19 *So Na'aman said, "If you won't take it, then please let your servant be given as much earth as two mules can carry; because from now on, your servant will offer neither burnt offerings nor sacrifices to other gods, but only to ADONAI. Except this, and may ADONAI Forgive your servant for it: when my master goes into the temple of Rimmon to worship there, and he leans on my hand, and I bow down in the temple of Rimmon — when I bow down, may ADONAI Forgive your servant for this." Elisha said to him, "Go in peace."*

PORTION Tazria

In the portion of **2 Kings 7**, the Haftorah portion, we find the story of the 4 lepers.

- ◆ They are not named.
- ◆ They are children of Israel, but they are outcasts due to the leprosy.



Whilst this story is told within the physical domain, we must realize that there is a spiritual message for us today.

Many people become believers in the Body of Messiah, however, all too often, some of these become outcasts.

We find that believers gather into groupings – mainly coming together around a particular interpretation on the WORD ... often strong leaders in that specific group demand absolute acceptance of that theme.

Anyone who holds an alternate view is then treated as an outcast.

- ◆ The orthodox Jews treat those who believe in Y'shua as outcasts
- ◆ The grace movement treats those who believe in deliverance as outcasts
- ◆ The general church treats those who believe in returning to Biblical foundations as outcasts
- ◆ The Body of Messiah struggles to come to grips with the concept of unity within diversity

And yet, this story teaches us that the outcasts all have some element of the spirit / truth that should be shared with the rest of the people - without it, they will stave to death within the bondage of their own city walls.

A. The 4 Lepers reveal the attribute of STRATEGY

The story details that the king of Aram / Syria has been engaged in battles with the Israelites for some time.

The city of Jerusalem has been under siege and the people are starving – so much so that a donkey’s head is sold for 80 shekels of silver.

2 Kings 6:25 *“At the time, there was a severe famine in Shomron; and they maintained their siege until a donkey’s head sold for eighty pieces of silver and half a pint of doves’ dung for five pieces of silver.”*

One can imagine, if it’s that bad inside the city, then for those people outside the city walls - the lepers, the situation would be that much worse.

The 4 lepers develop a strategy ... some clear thinking causes them to analyse the forces that are impacting them.

They build a scenario plan and come up with 3 options.

- i) We can enter the city and take our chances with the people that we know
- ii) We can continue to sit at the city gates and hope for the best, or
- iii) We can get up and go to the enemy’s camp and at least die trying to do something

Two of the choices are a no-win scenario, and so they chose the final one – let us do something positive.

2 Kings 7:3-4 *“Now there were four men with tzara’at at the entrance to the city gate, and they said to each other, “Why should we sit here till we die? If we say, ‘We’ll enter the city, then the city has been struck by the famine, so we’ll die there. And if we sit still here, we’ll also die. So let’s go and surrender to the army of Aram; if they spare our lives, we will live; and if they kill us, we’ll only die.”*

Many times we are faced with difficult choices.

As Moses says to Joshua ... stand and take courage.

Go out and at least try.

2 Kings 7:5 *“They got up during the twilight to go to the camp of Aram. But when they reached the outskirts of the camp of Aram, they saw no one!”*

What these men do not know is that a prophecy has gone out!!

- ◆ One which declares an end to the siege
- ◆ The end only comes when desperate men have the courage to act

2 Kings 7:1 *Elisha answered, "Listen to the Word of ADONAI. Here is what ADONAI Says: 'Tomorrow, by this time, six quarts of fine flour will sell for only a shekel, and half a bushel of barley for a shekel (in the market) at the gate to Shomron.'*

B. The 4 Lepers reveal the attribute of JUSTICE

Initially the 4 men think only of their own needs - something quite normal if you have been without food for a while.

- ◆ Although they have been rejected, treated as outcasts they choose to reciprocate by turning the other cheek.
- ◆ They will share the spoils of war with their fellowman.

2 Kings 7:8-9(a) *"When these men with tzara'at reached the outskirts of the camp, they entered one of the tents, ate and drank; then took some silver, gold and clothing; and went and hid it. Next they returned and entered another tent, took stuff from there, and went and hid it. But finally they said to each other, "**What we are doing is wrong. At a time of good news like this, we shouldn't keep it to ourselves.** If we wait even till morning, we will earn only punishment; so come on ..."*

C. The 4 Lepers reveal the attribute of STEWARDSHIP

- ◆ The lepers are entrusted with the bounty of the enemy's camp
- ◆ They are also entrusted with the news that the enemy has run away
- ◆ They are entrusted with the gift of ending the famine and fulfilling the prophecy
- ◆ They go to inform the king and today - the prophecy will be fulfilled!!!

2 Kings 7:9(b) *"let's go and tell the king's household."*

2 Kings 7:16 *"Then the people went out and ransacked the camp of Aram — with the result that six quarts of fine flour was sold for only a shekel and half a bushel of barley for a shekel, in keeping with what ADONAI had said."*

D. The 4 Lepers reveal a heart of COMPASSION

The heart of true compassion is to give to others, who did not treat you the same way ... to respond with a level of kindness that is over and beyond - to be kind to others who have rejected you is the ultimate act of loving your neighbour.

2 Kings 7:10-11 *“So they came and shouted to the gatekeepers of the city and told them the news: “We went to the camp of Aram, and no one was there, no human voice — just the horses and donkeys tied up, and the tents left in place.” The gatekeepers called and told it to the royal palace inside.”*

A FINAL THOUGHT

This week's final thought is a somber one.

It relates to the actions taken by the prophet's servant Gehazi.

Naaman came with the intention to bless / to make a thanksgiving offering.

He brings;

- ◆ 10 talents of silver
- ◆ 6000 shekels of gold
- ◆ and 10 changes of clothing.

2 Kings 5:5 *“He set out, taking with him 660 pounds of silver, 6,000 pieces of gold and ten changes of clothes”*

Gehazi who does NOTHING to help the man, looks for a reward.

How many people today try to “sell” the gift that YHVH placed inside of them?

Mammon, it seems, has this ability to divert YHVH's People away from the calling:

- ◆ has the potential to pervert the blessing that should be flowing freely
- ◆ has the power to dim the Light of YHVH's Glory towards the face of those who do not know Him

Please just consider **how little he wants of the potential blessing that was on hand.**

I spoke earlier about the spiritual outcasts that we find in society ... those who have a truth, which is not accepted by the Body with the consequential rejection of that group.

It is sometimes true that people are rejected ... not for the truth that they carry, but rather for their demeanor / attitude that they have - where they insinuate that others who do not think like they do, are dumb, etc.

Paul tells us, that YHVH works sometimes with the people that are not the smartest - simply because they will trust His leading without question.

1 Corinthians 1:26-29 *“Just look at yourselves, brothers; look at those whom GOD has Called! Not many of you are wise by the world’s standards, not many wield power or boast noble birth. But GOD Chose what the world considers nonsense in order to shame the wise; GOD Chose what the world considers weak in order to shame the strong; and GOD Chose what the world looks down on as common or regards as nothing in order to bring to nothing what the world considers important; so that no one should boast before GOD.”*

- ◆ Therefore, it pays us to **be careful** when we hear something that we do not always understand ... nor can fit into what we have come to accept.
- ◆ It pays us to be diligent to **check out** all things carefully, measuring these against the standard of the Bible.

The choice is yours.

- ❖ You **can keep the Torah** truth that you have discovered ... OR share it.
- ❖ You **can enjoy the freedom** that you have found OR you can free others.

Make a choice not to rob the Body of Messiah by letting your fleshly desires and own sense of importance take preference.

Restore Zion - the City of GOD!!

PRIESTLY BLESSING

Numbers 6:24-27

“Y’varekh’kha YHVH v’yishmerekha.
May YHVH bless you and keep you.

Ya’er YHVH panav eleikha vichunekka.
May YHVH make His Face shine on you and show you His favour.

Yissa YHVH panav eleikha v’yasem l’kha shalom.
May YHVH lift up His Face toward you and give you peace.

In this way they are to put **My Name** on the people of Israel, so that I will BLESS them.

