



WELCOME TO MY WORLD STUDY GUIDE

WEEK 5: FEBRUARY 10-16, 2019

TREASURE FOR ALL

SCRIPTURE: 2 KINGS 7:1-20

Reflections: In this week's sermon, we explored two stories of Jesus that compared His Kingdom with treasure: treasure found in a field, and a pearl of great value. We learned that real treasure changes people, to the extent they are willing to give everything to get it. But what if we have nothing to give? Can God possibly want to share His treasure with us as well?

In 2 Kings 7, we read of four desperate, skin-diseased men who discover such a treasure. The discovery happens during dark times. Arameans had surrounded and laid siege to the city of Samaria. Because all supplies were cut off, the people of Israel were starving inside the city. Because of their contagious disease, however, these four men were pushed outside of the city, so they were doubly exposed to danger. In their desperation, they finally decide to surrender to the enemy and suffer their fate. What choice did they really have?

So, they made their way to the enemy camp, but found there an amazing sight:

"When they reached the edge of the camp, no one 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. 2 Kings 7:5-7 (NIV 2011)

As the men made their way through the abandoned camp, they found all the treasure that the enemy had left behind:

"The men who had leprosy reached the edge of the camp, entered one of the tents and ate and drank. Then they took 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." 2 Kings 7:8 (NIV 2011)

In fact, there was so much treasure, they began to feel guilty:

"Then they said to each other, 'What we're doing is not 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.'" 2 Kings 7:9 (NIV 2011)

They then returned to the city and shared the joyful news of their discovery. There was treasure enough for everyone. The siege was over, and the enemy, defeated.

The story is filled with irony. Those who had the least were given the most. Those who dwelt within the safety of the city were in fact the most endangered. The powerful armies of the enemy were vanquished by a sound.

The world in which we live often makes no sense. We see a great divide between the haves and the have nots. Some dwell in safety while others barely manage to survive. Some have all the power while others suffer. Meanwhile, everyone still looks for more: more safety, more peace, more power, more wealth.

God's treasure is not like this. There is more than enough for everyone, even if we have nothing to start with. Whether we

search for it or stumble upon it, when we find it, we know it comes from Him. And we know that we cannot keep it for ourselves. It must be shared with everyone, whether inside or outside of our city.

Prayer Thought:

Father, help me to value highly the great treasure that I have in you, and show me how to share that treasure with others.

Application Question

What does your heart treasure most?

Group Discussion Questions:

1. In both of Jesus' parables about treasure, and in this story about the lepers, we immediately encounter the power of treasure. It moves us, drives us, and changes us. How has the desire for treasure changed people that you know?
2. How is the treasure that God offers different than the treasure that we too often seek?
3. What concrete steps can I take to share the riches of God's Kingdom with others?

Suggestions for Further Research:

For page: studylight.org/commentaries/pet/2-kings-7.html