

Series: **ACCELERATE 2018 – STRONGER & FASTER**

Topic: **The Lepers Are Coming**

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Text: **II Kings 6 v 24 - 33**

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Message

In II Kings 6 v 24, there was famine in besieged Samaria. The people lost their sense of value, started to live for the present, and were on the verge of completely jeopardising their future. Whoever has lost a sense of value for valuable things and living for today, is also under a siege. Anyone whose priorities are wrong and places a premium on the mundane things of life is under a siege. A siege connotes 'no movement or no progress or no fulfilment'. It is the devil's calling to introduce a siege and it is the grace on a child of God to break that siege (John 10 v 10).

II Kings 7 v 1, When the officer asked Elisha, "Look, if the Lord would make windows in heaven, could this thing be?" he was asking the wrong question. He spoke out of unbelief and because of that, in verse 2, Elisha answered and said, "In fact, you shall see it with your eyes, but you shall not eat of it." The officer was later posted to the gate and was trampled upon as people struggled to grab some things for themselves. He saw the miracle but did not partake of it. His response should have been similar to that of Mary, after she was told she would conceive. Mary's response to the angel was "...Let it be to me according to your word." Such a response should be the posture of someone when told what may seem like the impossible. The quality of the question you ask determines the quality of the answer you get. Many are stranded in life because of irrelevant questions. When irrelevant questions are asked, you miss your answer. Stop asking, 'Why is mine like this?' Instead ask, 'How will this siege be over?' 'How can speed come into my destiny?' Asking 'How' is better than 'What'. When you focus on 'what' or 'Who', you look for enemies. Focusing on 'Who' keeps you in the same place.

To come out of a season of a siege, you should know that God can use anything or anyone. God's ways are not our ways. He does not work the way we work. (Isa. 55). God used 5 loaves and two fishes to feed 5,000 people. This is one reason we must be praying Christians. Our prayer brings us into divine alignment with God's thoughts and elevates our thinking faculty to resonate with that of God. That way, you gain divine direction and speed. God is in charge of direction because the level at which he sees is different from our level.

Strategic thinking leads to divine direction. Many Christians suspend their minds too soon in their quest to fulfil their destiny. God wants us to engage our minds. In the story that we read, God used the lepers to bring a miracle but look at how he used them. The lepers started to have a strategic discussion among themselves. They tried to create a critical path to their next level to come out of a siege. They told themselves, 'If we stay here, we die'. That statement refers to a 'dead end'. You need to engage strategic thinking and map our dead-ends. The second option was to go into the city, but there was famine in the city and we will die there. (NB: Lepers can think. Leprosy of the body isn't leprosy of the mind)

When you are prayer-less, you can walk into a dead-end or a siege because it takes you holding to God from time to time, to keep you from falling.

The lepers' last option was to go into the Syrian camp. They said again, 'Either they kill us (but we are already dead where we are) or they may spare our lives, and if they do, we shall live'. They saw possibility and wherever there is possibility, God is usually there. Even if you are offered something small, there is still a possibility of something better. Never stay at a dead end. Take away pride from your heart. When nothing is coming in, accept whatever you are offered even though, it is below what you were receiving previously. Remember, you need to pay some bills. Wherever you see possibilities, God is moving. Take calculated risks.

To be a stronger and faster Christian, you have got to be a thinking Christian. The moment the lepers started moving, their mission was completed and God took over. As they moved, God amplified the sound of their footsteps. As the lepers moved, the Syrians thought the King of Israel had gone to hire other kings to come and fight along with him.

The Syrians became afraid, fled leaving behind everything they had gathered. You don't know what will make way for you until you move.

At the wedding at Cana of Galilee, when they ran out of wine, it was as if a siege had come on the ceremony. The event planners went to meet Mary, the mother of Jesus, telling her that they were out of wine. Mary asked them to talk to Jesus and insisted that whatever Jesus commanded, should be done. The moment Jesus spoke, the men had to stop thinking because the instruction given, did not make sense. The moment you are sure that this is the way to go, if you don't suspend thinking temporarily, fear will get the better of you.

In Mat. 14, Jesus beckoned on to Peter to come. Unfortunately, Peter acted but was still thinking. As he was walking on water, he was looking at the waves and after a while, he started to sink. When you walk on water, you have to suspend your natural senses. Because for you to walk on water, heaven has already suspended natural laws for you.

The lepers could be likened to social outcasts, undesirable elements, rejected etc., of today. You may be considered one of these but if you make the right movement in the right direction, things will change for the better. You may tell yourself that the lepers are coming, but in the camp of the enemy, it is a mighty army they perceive.

The summary of today's message is that you need your mind to interpret instructions but God needs your faith to release divine interventions.